MEMOIRS

OF A

YOUNG LADY

of FAMILY.

BEING

A ſuccinct account of the capriciouſneſs of fortune, and an accurate ſurvey of the heart of that incomprehenſible animal, called MAN.

O Fortuna, O fors Fortuna!

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—— *Inſano nemo in amore ſapit.* PROP.

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THE

PREFACE.

PREFACES, now-a-days, are conſidered with the ſame indifference, or rather overlooked with the ſame contempt, as modern dedications; the one founding forth the fulſome praiſes of his patron, while the other ecchoes back the uncommon merit of his performance, and

can hardly fail to remind the reader of this paſſage in the poet, *quid dignum tanto feret hic promiſſor hiatu?* not that I would be underſtood to diſcommend all prefatory eſſays, I only mean to cenſure the abſurd manner now in vogue. Indeed I have always conſidered them in the light of very uſeful ſupplements, not perhaps to the underſtanding of the courteous reader, but to the barrenneſs of the hard bound author, for though they furniſh not the peruſer with any one ſingle idea, that is either new or entertaining, yet it muſt be remembred, and

is by the by, no immaterial conſideration, that it fills up the ſpace of ſo many blank ſheets of paper.

THERE is, it muſt be confeſſed, an appearance of deſign in ſome of theſe lucubrations, and we are either duly informed of the amazing manner in which the ſubſequent papers came into the hand of the editor; though the ingenious gentleman is himſelf either the inventor or the tranſlator, or which is more commonly the caſe, the public is amuſed with promiſes of uncommon incidents, ſurprizing

turns of fortune, and ſeries of intereſting adventures, which like the ſchemes of moſt other projectors, end uſually in diſappointment; indeed ſomewhat of this may now be deemed a little neceſſary, and he minds of thoſe, whoſe great view in reading is entertainment, have been ſo conſtantly deceived in the amuſement they were in purſuit of, that they ſtand in need of ſome ſtronger inducement, beſides their own natural propenſity to books of this caſt, to venture on them at all. After having ſaid ſo much of the chicanery of thoſe who profeſs

ſeſs themſelves the ſervants of the public, and who having a great deal of leiſure of their own, are determined to call off the attention if poſſible, of every one around them, it would be unpardonable in me at once to cenſure and to countenance ſuch mean artifices, which are deſigned, as it were, to enſnare the world's applauſe, or, which is more probably the caſe, to ſecure themſelves a ſufficient reward of their labours.

THE following ſheets, whoſe ſubject, I flattered myſelf, deſerved my attention, or elſe gentle reader I would never

have attempted to petition for thine, I ſubmit to thy candour, only requeſting a fair and impartial peruſal, and forewarning thee that thou wilt find nothing aſtoniſhing, the utmoſt that is aimed at, is the being natural. Perhaps thou wilt meet with a ſketch of an intimate acquaintance, or if thou art ingenuous enough to own it, wilt diſcover ſome foible expoſed, which thou mayeſt meet with in thyſelf. So unaccountable and capricious a being is MAN, that there are few characters, if really drawn, but will ſuit many in the ſphere of every one's acquaint-

acquaintance. But I fancy I hear the angry critick exclaiming againſt the foundation of this ſpecies of writing, which is laid, he will tell you, in the follies of mankind, and inſtead of contributing to remedy the diſeaſe, is the moſt likely method to render the cure deſperate. Theſe aſſertions being general, and impeaching this ſpecies of hiſtory in no one particular, might not, perhaps, be altogether worthy an anſwer, did I not conſider that the removal of ſuch prejudices is not only uſeful in itſelf, and becoming every ſincere and ingenuous lo-

ver of truth, but likewiſe abſolutely neceſſary to pave the way for the following ſheets; being not without hopes, that when I have brought the reader into good humour with this method of addreſſing the publick, I may then prevail upon him to examine my own production in particular.

I MUST confeſs that I know not a more uſeful, engaging, and entertaining leſſon than a well wrote novel; eſpecially if it proceed on this baſis, which I conceive is neceſſary to recommend it to the attention of the generality, namely on ridi-

ridiculing rather than laſhing the follies of the world; the characters ſhould be drawn in *caricature*, and in order to ſtrike the more forcibly *un peu outré*, that is, (to accommodate ourſelves to our Engliſh reader) a little beyond that exactneſs which a ſtrict obſervance of truth would engage you to. Upon this plan, might not a juſt portrait of the emptineſs of human life, and of the inſignificancy of the creatures moving in it, be drawn both for the inſtruction and entertainment of the reader? May not the ambitious be expoſed, the malicious be detected, and

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the

the coxcomb ridiculed, with the utmoſt good humour? and if theſe ſeveral characters, all of them apt either to impoſe upon or enſnare the unwary obſerver, are placed in their proper point of view, then let any one tell me whether the modern novelliſt may not claim an equality in point of uſefulneſs with the ancient hiſtorian. The one excites your horror by the well wrought deſcription of ſcenes of tumult and bloodſhed; the other lays before you a repreſentation of more ſtill life, and naturally raiſes your pity at ſeeing the buſy induſtry of ſome, and

the

the overreaching craft of others tending to the ſame point, namely, the acquiring that bubble of reputation which it is in the power of every paſſenger to deſtroy, or that viſionary and romantick happineſs, which is placed according to the different tempers and diſpoſitions of the purſuivants, either in riches or power.

INDEED I cannot but congratulate the preſent age, on that refinement in their taſte, which has made them ſo entirely averſe to every thing romantic, and make them conſider the ſultans and ſultanas with

with the ſame indifference as an airy dream. It muſt be confeſſed indeed that this refinement has not taken place univerſally, and that there are ſtill ſome readers who retain an inconceivable fondneſs for the flights of an *Oroondates*, and reliſh to this moment the aſtoniſhing abſurdities of *Amadis de Gaul*; but the falſe taſte of ſome, can never be a reaſon to any author for indulging them in their folly, at the expence of the eſteem of the far greater part of his readers. Every age, nay, every year brings with it ſome new mode of writing, and

your

your modern men of taſte would be aſhamed of being even ſuſpected to approve what has not the ſanction of the lateſt novelty; and hireling ſcriblers enough there are, who will gratify this reigning paſſion. This misfortune, however, is the conſtant attendant of their mean complacency, that they and their writings do never ſurvive the taſte of the times, but as they began, ſo they end together. Truth alone, will ſtand its ground in ſpite of all oppoſition, and notwithſtanding every new mode, and however the united malice of man may

ſometimes

ſometimes eclipſe it, they can never entirely compaſs its deſtruction. It muſt be allowed that thoſe novels whoſe ſole aim is the repreſenting men as they really are, beſides the flatneſs and inſipidity which they are in great danger of falling into, are liable to ſeveral objections.

THERE are a kind of readers who take up a book with no other deſign than to make perſonal reflections, and who judge of the merit of them by the quantity of matter that it furniſhes for their ſpleen and ill-nature to aſperſe every one around

around them. Theſe reflections are moſt commonly not ſo much the effect of the reader's penetration in diving into the author's deſign, as in reality of their own ingenuity, in having firſt ſtarted them themſelves: it is, however, attended with this ill effect, even to the inventors, that the malice of the inſinuation is not vented on the writer of the book, but on the explainer of the ſentiment, which, had it not been for the piercing genius of theſe gentlemen had been paſſed by unobſerved.

LET

Let this one rule, however, be obſerved indeviably; namely, in laying the foundation of all your characters in nature. Perſonal applications endure but for a time, and are forgot as ſoon as the trifling perſonages that occaſioned them are removed from publick view, or perhaps they are ſo inſignificant in themſelves, that they inſenſibly ſlip away, and eſcape from men's notice. Beſides that every book, excepting ſuch as treat of the abſtruſe ſciences, may be diſtorted and brought to ſerve the purpoſes of the craf-

ty

ty and ill deſigning; a novel may expoſe a notorious fop, or an affected prude, and yet the author not have in his view lord D——, or the dutcheſs of H——. Perſons who, in all probability, have never happened to come within the ſphere of his acquaintance; and yet the matter of fact remains juſt as it did before, namely, that if lord D—— is a fop, and the dutcheſs a prude, the novelliſt has taken ſtrokes that are to be met with in their characters: for did they bear no reſemblance to any one, the author would loſe his deſign

ſign, and the perſonages (to ſpeak in the technical language of criticiſm) would not be marked. Doubtleſs amongſt the variety of pictures that are drawn in this repreſentation of human life, there are ſeveral which are lively images of the originals, though not drawn from particular individuals; but which is a conſiderable proof of the judgment of the painter, they are drawn from the ideas he has conceived in the general, and are left to the fancy of each one apart to be applied.

I HAVE dwelt upon this head the longer, becauſe the ſubject of the enſuing pages, is drawn principally from common life, and, what is ſeldom the caſe, though conſtantly affirmed by thoſe who think they have a right to be believed merely on the credit of their own affirmations, the lady was an intimate acquaintance of the author's, who flattered himſelf that he had once no inconſiderable portion of her eſteem. Let the reader but fix this thoroughly in his mind, and then he will not put himſelf to the trouble of torturing

torturing his invention, to apply the ſevere reflections that may be interſperſed, to thoſe whom he fondly imagines they might ſuit.

THE

THE CONTENTS.

BOOK I.

CHAP. I.

An indenture of a ſingular kind, and made like moſt other covenants, with no expectation of its being kept.

Page 1

CHAP. II.

Events previouſly neceſſary to be known. A deal of love. Its natural conſequence, marriage, and what may, perhaps, be ſuited to the times. A duel on a point of honour. 5

CHAP

CHAP. III.

An apoſtrophe to deſtiny. Our heroine appears in her infancy. An account of her youth, recommended as a touch-ſtone to the miſſes of Great Britain. Lady Goodiſon *introduced.* p. 22

CHAP. IV.

Miſs's pride hurt. The progreſs of the female mind diſtinctly traced. A ſtroke of good fortune. A tender parting. 37

CHAP. V.

Several uncommon characters drawn from nature, who exerts herſelf oftentimes in whimſical productions. 50

CHAP. VI.

A ſurprizing metamorphoſis. Emily *returns to the country. A fineſſe of lady* Goodiſon's. 67

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Character of a ſchool miſtreſs and aſſiſtant. A love plot opens. Miſs in her airs. p. 89

CHAP. VIII.

The love plot thickens into a viſit, and ripens in a letter. Our heroine at a loſs for writing. This expedient ſupplied. 104

CHAP. IX.

The whole intrigue diſcovered by a jealouſy of lady Goodiſon's. *It ends in a quarrel. And, what is perhaps much more agreeable to the reader, finiſhes the Firſt Book.* 119

BOOK II.

CHAP. I.

A bone for the criticks. 139

CHAP. II.

A ſad reverſe of fortune, in which our heroine's conſtancy is put to the trial.

trial. An inſtance of the ſhrewdneſs of female cunning, and of the ſeverity of its reſentment. 142

CHAP. III.

A marriage projected. A ſecret correſpondence. A new lover appears. The natural effects, a jealouſy and ſecret inclination to one, but unwillingneſs to part with the other. An explanation. 157

CHAP. IV.

A reconciliation effected. A lord, a lady, and a lover introduced. 180

CHAP. V

Amazing diſcoveries, productive of no diſagreeable conſequences to a fatigued author, called concluſion. 200

CHAP. VI.

An affectionate farewel to the reader. 232

MEMOIRS

MEMOIRS
OF A
YOUNG LADY.

BOOK I.

CHAP. I.

An indenture of a ſingular kind, and made like moſt other covenants, with no expectation of its being kept.

GENTLE reader, although my preface may have given thee a ſurfeit of introductions in general, and with thy uſual impatience thou mayeſt be longing to get into the middle of the ſtory, among other reaſons, for this,

that thou mayeſt have done with it the ſooner, yet as I am the ſole lord and proprietor of the enſuing memoirs, and can at pleaſure communicate or conceal them, which laſt thou mayeſt imagine the more adviſeable conduct of the two. I am determined to enter into certain articles, to which I ſhall deſire thy full aſſent and conſent before thou readeſt my main work, and which, for the ſake of method, I have prevailed upon a friend of mine at the law, to put into the form of an indenture.

To wit, indenture bipartite between Peter Quill, Gent. of the pariſh of ——— on the one part, and Humphry Plod, of St. ——— on the other. Be it agreed between the aforeſaid, 1ſt. that Humphry Plod ſhall bring with him a ſufficient and full quantity of that valuable commodity, called candour, not moth-

moth-eaten by envy, nor mildewed by modern criticiſm.

2dly. That he preſume not to mention the terms, damned ſtuff, no buſineſs, dull deſign, vile traſh, *&c. &c. &c.* the property of Grub-Street ſcriblers time immemorial, inſomuch, that if he be found faulty herein, and the fact fully proved, he ſhall be proſecuted in form as one of that hireling ſociety, and the ſaid expreſſions ſhall be produced as due and lawful teſtimony of the mark of that pernicious confederacy.

3dly. That ſhould he meet with the characters of any of his acquaintance ridiculed and expoſed, he ſhall not put any malevolent conſtruction on Peter Quill's deſigns; the ſaid Peter Quill intending to expoſe knaves, and ridicule coxcombs in general, and not to make out Sir

Thomas ——— or lady Mary F——— in particular.

4thly. That he read over the whole from the beginning to end before he preſume to deliver in his opinion of the performance; and not like many others, content himſelf with hurrying over the titles of the chapters; but whereas through the length or dullneſs of the work, the ſaid Humphry Plod may imagine this laſt article a terrible aggrievance, be it obſerved, that it ſhall and may be lawful for him to paſs his judgment, provided he can tell the drift of the whole, or ſhould there be no drift, the caſe of many modern productions of late, that he ſingle out the principal circumſtances, and that then he may defame it at pleaſure, otherwiſe at his peril.

THAT upon Humphry Plod's compliance with theſe ſeveral articles, Peter Quill doth hereby engage himſelf, and he is hereby engaged to furniſh out his utmoſt to the inſtruction and amuſement of the ſaid Humphry. And now gentle reader, taking thy word for the performance of this agreement, turn to the book with what appetite thou mayeſt.

CHAP. II.

Events previouſly neceſſary to be known. A deal of love. Its natural conſequence, marriage, and what may, perhaps, be ſuited to the times. A duel on a point of honour.

IT may not perhaps be altogether improper to inform the reader, that my troubling the publick with this account of myſelf, does by no means proceed from the vanity of appear-

ing in print: when the heat of youth is over, that fondneſs for applauſe, ſo frequently to be met with in perſons of much vivacity and little experience, for the moſt part abates, when the paſſions ſubſide, and the judgment arrives at a greater degree of maturity. Beſides, had I been ever ſo ambitious in my own diſpoſition, the continued ſeries of misfortunes, which I have unhappily experienced; would have cooled that impetuoſity, and, indeed, I am apprehenſive that the exceſſive grief I have gone through will have no inconſiderable effect on this imperfect account, inſomuch, that although I I may, in ſome meaſure excite the compaſſion, I almoſt deſpair of contributing to the entertainment of my readers. Nay, I queſtion with myſelf, whether I would ſollicit their pity; in my opinion the ſtory need only to be mentioned, and the reader muſt then be left to his own com-

ments

ments; what he will feel, and how he will determine, I ſhall not pretend to aſcertain. I hope I ſhall ſtand excuſed for giving an account of ſome events preceeding, indeed, my birth in point of time, but inſeparably connected with my own melancholy caſe, and which I doubt not may be inſerted with ſome degree of propriety. Had I been born in the days when aſtrology was much in vogue, my birth would have given occaſion for much wonder and aſtoniſhment, nay for much pity and lamentation, inaſmuch as the calamities which afterwards I had almoſt ſaid overwhelmed me, were ſhadowed out; before, and at the time of my birth. Lord T. my father, was deſcended of an ancient family, his parents had looked upon him as a perſon who was ſome time or other to make a very extraordinary figure in life, the countenance they themſelves could give him, together with the

greatneſs of their connexions, ſeemed to favour their hopes, nay to increaſe their expectations: his friends put him into the army while he was very young, intending that only as a ſtep to his farther promotion, the young man was naturally induſtrious, though exceeding lively, determined within himſelf to anſwer his friends expectations, he ſeemed wholly occupied in making his fortune at a time of life when moſt men think of nothing elſe but pleaſure. But this ſcene of happineſs and tranquillity was ſoon interrupted, and fortune at once put an end to all the ſchemes of honour and profit, in which he had been hitherto totally immerſed. He was acquainted with Miſs Ferguſon, a young lady of exceſſive beauty, who had loſt her mother very lately, her father having been killed in battle ſome time before. As her fortune was very inconſiderable, ſhe had been taught to hope that the king

king would give her a penſion, as a reward for her father's eminent ſervices and bravery. She waited with ſome impatience for the fulfilling of this expectation, in order to retire into the country with ſome credit. lord T———, ſoon after his acquaintance with her, fell violently in love, and gave himſelf up entirely to the proſecution of his addreſſes, to the neglect of all the ſchemes which he had before been concerting for his own advancement. In ſhort, his heart became inſenſibly engaged, and he looked on riches with indifference, in proportion to the frequent opportunities he had of beholding miſs Ferguſon. He was now hardly ever abſent from the ducheſs of———, who had taken miſs home on her coming out of the ſchool where ſhe had been educated from a child. Miſs Ferguſon was ſo exceedingly reſerved, that the earl did not preſume to come to an expla-

planation. Indeed this was owing to his baſhfulneſs, as well as the lady's reſerve; he conſtantly imagined that he ſhould have a ſufficient degree of reſolution the next time he ſaw her, and it as conſtantly failed him, when he came to put it in practice: he was ſenſible, indeed, of the abſurdity of being ſo baſhful, and indeed of the abſolute neceſſity there was of getting the better of it, but as yet he was unable to offer ſo much violence to himſelf. His love, for which, O indulgent reader, we would by no means have thee read luſt, was founded on eſteem, and had an equal ſhare of reſpect and tenderneſs in its compoſition. This kind of love, though the moſt ſincere, is, nevertheleſs, by far the moſt dangerous, as its cure is ſeldom, if ever, to be effected; quite contrary to this, is that kind of love whoſe characteriſtick is virulence; it is true indeed, that it rages like a fire, but

it

it is equally true that it is as eaſily extinguiſhed, whereas that paſſion, which for diſtinction ſake, I ſhall call the ſentimental, is ſlow, but ſure and laſting; lovers of this kind meet generally with great difficulties which thwart and diſappoint them; theſe are the moſt worthy, but the others are generally the happieſt men.

THE earl could think of no other expedient, than to commit to writing what he could not prevail upon himſelf to ſay to his miſtreſs: had he indeed taken particular notice of her behaviour, he could never have failed obſerving that ſhe ſhewed an extraordinary condeſcenſion towards him, and that it was with difficulty ſhe reſtrained herſelf from declaring her ſentiments. But ſo blinded for the moſt part, are men to their own happineſs, that they but too frequently make uſe of what was intended to comfort them, to a quite contrary purpoſe, namely, the more feelingly to

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to

to afflict themſelves: they did not however remain in this uncertain ſituation for any length of time. Miſs Ferguſon was already too much prepoſſeſſed in favour of the earl, to make any other than a feeble reſiſtance.

As they were both very young, and conſequently very inexperienced, they viewed only the bright ſide of the queſtion, and ſolaced themſelves with all the delights which ſo tender a paſſion ſeemed at firſt ſight to promiſe them; and yet the earl upon reflection, could not but know that his friends would be extremely averſe to ſuch a match, which did not at all tally with the ſchemes they had in view. They ſatisfied themſelves however, with hopes of mutual conſtancy, and looking through the medium of blinded paſſion, it is no wonder that all difficulties diſappeared very ſoon. Miſs Ferguſon had

had waited two whole years, and her court expectations had not as yet produced a ſingle farthing; but what was ſtill of worſe conſequence, the dutcheſs with whom ſhe lived, was chagrined at ſeeing that reſpect divided between her and her fair gueſt, which ſhe had the vanity to think belonged wholly to herſelf. The progreſs from jealouſy to hatred is very ſhort, inſomuch that though they continued under the ſame roof for ſome time, yet they ſoon came to an open rupture.

THE young lady perceived but too ſoon the effects of the dutcheſs's jealouſy. The earl often found her in tears, which you need not doubt gave him a good deal of uneaſineſs. He attempted for ſome time to enquire into the cauſe, but after ſeveral ineffectual attempts, the exceſs of the lady's grief procured what his repeated intreaties had failed of. In

pur-

purſuance of her lover's advice, miſs deſired the dutcheſs to give her leave to retire to a country ſeat, till ſhe had received from the king what ſhe had ſo long been expecting. As this requeſt was the moſt agreeable one ſhe could poſſibly have made, it was without much difficulty that ſhe got the dutcheſs's conſent.

HERE then miſs Ferguſon was in a family to whom ſhe was wholly unknown; without any ſupport, and indeed without any hope of receiving any from that quarter where ſhe had the greateſt title to expect it. In ſuch a ſituation, the ſmalleſt comforts are embraced with eagerneſs, nay, the moſt trifling alleviations are conſidered in the light of ſolid aſſiſtances. No wonder then, if the earl's aſſiduity at this time, contributed to endear him to her; ſo partial are we to ourſelves, that whatſoever tends, though in the remoteſt degree

degree to ſooth us into a good opinion of our merit, we receive with eagerneſs, and cheriſh with fondneſs.

The earl was exceedingly deſirous of uniting himſelf to what he accounted more valuable than any thing upon earth, inſomuch that he propoſed a private marriage to her, in hopes that happier times might allow them to make it publick hereafter. The young lady following the dictates of her own inclinations, and guided by appearances of happineſs, conſented to this ſtep, unknowing, or at leaſt unmindful of the dangers that would infallibly attend ſuch a union. Had ſhe truſted any one elſe but her lover, the danger ſhe would have run would have been very conſiderable, but ſhe depended entirely on the earl's honour, and indeed whom could ſhe ſo ſafely rely on, as one of whoſe fidelity ſhe had

had

had ſuch frequent and undoubted experience. About a year after their marriage, ſhe lay in of a boy, and on the third year after that, ſhe was brought to bed of me.

She had ſpent near four years in retirement, without any one's ſuſpecting in the leaſt that ſhe was married; but while ſhe was big with child the ſecond time, ſhe longed greatly to go to a play. Her huſband who was moſt exceſſively fond of her, would not by any means contradict her. Her beauty attracted the eyes of the houſe upon her, but of none more than the marquis of ———, who kept his eyes fixed upon her during the whole performance, and who when it was over, came to the door of the box where ſhe was ſitting, in order to ſee her to a greater advantage. My father handed her out; the marquis concluded immediately he was her lover,

and

and accordingly ordered them to be dodged. He perſuaded himſelf that he ſhould get an admittance very eaſily, and indeed on the very next day he intended to make her a viſit.

LADY T——— was extremely ſurprized on hearing that the marquis ——— to whom ſhe thought herſelf an entire ſtranger, was come to ſee her. His preſence threw her into a good deal of confuſion, which was ſtill farther increaſed by the propoſals which he made to her. The more he ſpoke, the leſs ſhe underſtood his real intentions, (a way of talking not altogether uncommon amongſt us, when men who have no ideas themſelves endeavour to give notions to others, which they have not ſo much as been at the pains of conceiving.) The inſinuations which he took care to interſperſe with a mixture of impudence

and

and reſpect, were ſo wholly new to her, that ſhe was utterly at a loſs in what manner to receive him. She had been brought up ſuitably to her expectations, and not to her preſent condition, and was now the wife of a man of family; the confuſion ſhe appeared in therefore was ſuch as theſe ſeveral circumſtances inſpired. The marquis, coxcomb by nature, and debauchee by choice, unaccuſtomed to refuſals which his pride could never think of digeſting, concluded that this concern of my mother's was all affectation, and that reſolution only was requiſite to crown his endeavour with ſucceſs. When therefore ſhe attempted to leave the room, he immediately placed himſelf at the door, upon this ſhe found that her only reſource was crying out, when my father who had been told that my mother had ſomebody with her, ſurprized at the uncommonneſs of the incident, opened a door

door from another part of the room, and croſſed the apartment with a good deal of precipitation. The confuſion which appeared in my mother's countenance, and the haſte with which the marquis took his leave, raiſed numberleſs ſuſpicions in the mind of my unhappy father. In ſhort, he was ſo wholly overpowered by a number of ideas that ruſhed into his mind at once, that he ſunk down into a great chair, wholly overpowered by the weight of his own reflections. My mother would fain have embraced him, but he puſhed her from him with indignation, and immediately croſſed the hall, giving my mother at the ſame time a look which pierced her to the heart, and intirely prevented her from making any reply.

A SINGLE word of hers would have been ſufficient to have appeaſed the ſtorm which had ariſen, and have

have reſtored that tranquillity and harmony which had heretofore ſubſiſted, but that opportunity being now gone, although the affair was not attended with all the misfortunes, it might have produced; yet the conſequences of it were terrible and alarming. The only reply my mother was able to make for ſome time was by her tears, which were ſo far from being of any aſſiſtance to her, that they drew on her the reproaches of my father: at length however they entirely got the better of my mother's patience, and ſhe vindicated her behaviour by a true and faithful account of what had happened.

As ſoon as my father was convinced of the unjuſtneſs of his ſuſpicions, he beſought his wife's pardon, which was no ſooner aſked than granted, and confirmed by a thouſand tender endearments. My father

father after ſome time went out with an air of great compoſure, the effect of which was that my mother reſumed her uſual chearfulneſs and good humour: but alas, this tranquillity was exceedingly ſhort-lived, for whilſt ſhe was imagining herſelf the happieſt creature on earth one of the heavieſt ſtrokes that it was in the power of fortune to inflict, was juſt ready to overwhelm her.

ALTHOUGH my father was thoroughly convinced of his wife's integrity, he was nevertheleſs ſorely irritated againſt the marquis, and accordingly determined to revenge an affront which had been offered to ſo dear a perſon as his wife. He went out immediately to enquire after the marquis's lodgings, and having found them, he ſent him a note, appointing a time and place for meeting. In purſuance of this appoint-

ment

ment they met and fought. My father wounded the marquis very dangerously, and made his escape immediately, having first taken the precaution to acquaint his friends with the affair, and to write a line to my mother.

CHAP. III.

An apostrophe to destiny. Our heroine appears in her infancy. An account of her youth, recommended as a touchstone to the misses of Great Britain. Lady Goodison introduced.

SHE shrieked out upon reading it, and fell down in a swoon, from which she recovered, indeed, but only to be better informed of, and consequently to be more chagrined at the incident that had happened. My father left the kingdom immediately, till his friends could compromise the affair; but the marquis

quis very ungenerouſly made no ſecret of the matter, and even as he was dying, deſired that a proſecution might be carried on againſt my father with the utmoſt rigour.

My mother was ſo deeply affected, that ſhe never recovered it; it haſtened my birth into the world, and immediately deprived me of my unfortunate parent. Cruel deſtiny! was not this ſurely ſufficient, and could not thy inſatiable cruelty be ſatisfied by ſuch a ſeries of misfortunes? Born by a marriage which could not be made publick, and by which I was conſequently deprived of the rank that I ſhould otherwiſe have held, and now, indeed cut off of all hopes of ever recovering it, my father flying from and baniſhed his country, my mother dying in a place where ſhe was an utter ſtranger, and leaving me a helpleſs infant. Alas, this was but the beginning of ſorrows.

Had

Had I but known ſoon enough in life, the misfortunes that my unhappy family had ſuffered, and the melancholy occaſion of them, I ſhould have induſtriouſly avoided the enſnaring pleaſures of love. My mother had long experienced the faithful ſervices of a maid that lived with her. It was to her care therefore that ſhe entruſted me. What a wretched expedient! and yet, alas, this was the only one in her power.

THE having a fellow ſufferer in misfortunes, not only lightens ſomewhat of the general load, but renders the perſon ſo ſuffering, ſomewhat dear to us, Perſons in this ſituation ſtrip themſelves of thoſe empty prejudices with which they were heretofore prepoſſeſſed, and they come at laſt to diſcern that equality of condition, which is ſo conſpicuous to an ingenuous mind, and which a continual run of proſperity has hitherto pre-

prevented them from perceiving. But the fault lieth in us, and not in the nature of things, for why ſhould adverſity bring us to the knowledge of the conſtitutions and ſettled appointments of nature, which is in itſelf ſimple, and has created none of thoſe chimerical diſtinctions which is the product of the imagination of that whimſical animal called man. Whom ought we to conſider as our trueſt friends, but thoſe who by a continued and approved zeal for our intereſts have ſhewn their titles to that appellation in the moſt diſtinguiſhed manner. While the ceremonious part of the world never offer their aſſiſtance, till they are pretty ſure it is too late, and the doing it then is rather to gratify their own vanity than to reward the ſtruggles of virtuous indigence. Theſe reflections are melancholy indeed, but they are true, being for the moſt part the re-

ſult of a bitter courſe of adverſity.

My mother had by her will authoriſed her maid to ſell all her effects, under pretence of paying her debts, but in reality to contribute to my maintainance and ſupport, having previouſly agreed that half ſhould be given to the perſon with whom my brother boarded, and that ſhe ſhould keep the other half to pay her for my education. Juſt as ſhe was dying, ſhe ſolemnly charged her to keep the manner of our birth a ſecret from us, till my father had it in his power to return to his native country. She lived but a few minutes after ſhe had taken this precaution, and indeed this was the only comfort that can be ſaid to have attended her. My nurſe ſtaid ſome time at London, during which time ſhe made all poſſible enquiries after my father, in order to inform

form him how his affairs ſtood, but her utmoſt vigilance proved ineffectual. She determined therefore to return into the country, being perſuaded in her own mind that I ſhould ſtay with her for life, and reſolved accordingly to make the beſt of that little which my mother had left her. She would fain have taken care of my brother too, but the people he was with were ſo exceedingly fond of him, that they entreated her earneſtly not to take him away, promiſing at the ſame time to take as much care of him as if he was their own.

They accordingly ſet out with me to return home. The village they lived in was about thirty miles diſtant from London; they had a daughter about four years older than myſelf, and out of gratitude to them I muſt own that they treated me with much more tenderneſs

than they did their own child, juſtifying but too well the good opinion that my mother had always entertained of them. They gave out in the village, that they were my godfather and godmother, and therefore in the remaining part of this account, I ſhall conſtantly ſpeak of them by that title. By that time I entered into my twelfth year, my diſpoſition began to diſcover itſelf. I was extravagantly fond of fine cloaths, and my indulgent godmother gratified this vanity as far as it lay in her power; and yet, though ſhe went even beyond her ability, ſhe did not always reap the ſatisfaction that ſhe propoſed; my humour as ſoon as ſatisfied was over, and the moment any thing was obtained, I conſidered it with indifference, whereas while I thought it beyond my reach, I had deſired it with the utmoſt eagerneſs. I had a careleſneſs and diſſatisfaction which nothing

nothing could get the better of. It was not without much reluctance I engaged in thoſe little diverſions which they were continually ſuggeſting to me: the more frequently they attempted to divert me from my melancholy, the more inſupportable they ſeemed to me, and the only comfort I had, was when I could ſpend ſome time by myſelf.

So extraordinary a diſpoſition in a girl at my age, at once alarmed and excited the compaſſion of the people with whom I lived. I could often hear my godmother ſay to her huſband, this child makes my heart bleed to ſee her, ſurely ſhe muſt have ſome knowledge of the misfortunes to which her ſituation expoſe her. Oftentimes as ſhe was embracing me, the tears would trickle down her cheeks; theſe incidents, though they did not eſcape my notice, did not however make

leaſt impreſſion upon me at that time. Juſt at the end of the village where I lived, was an exceeding fine meadow, bounded by a running ſtream, juſt by whoſe ſide roſe a double row of willows. This made an agreeable walk, and accordingly I made choice of it very frequently, as well to indulge my own private reflections as to free myſelf from the continual ſollicitations of my godmother. On the other ſide of the meadow was a little ſummer houſe that belonged to lady Goodiſon, who had been formerly married to a man of fortune, and on whoſe death ſhe had a very handſome jointure. She uſed generally to come and ſpend about two months of the ſummer in this place, during which time her houſe was always full of company.

ONE day as I was ſitting on the bank of the river playing with a willow ſwitch, lady Goodiſon and her company came thither to refreſh themſelves after the heat of the day, and came up quite cloſe to me, without my perceiving it. The neatneſs of my dreſs, my genteel air, and the compoſure with which I was ſitting, attracted their ſurprize, and accordingly they called to me. I was extremely aſtoniſhed and confounded at ſeeing myſelf among people of ſuch ſuperior rank, and yet I cannot ſay that I was ſorry in the leaſt. The ladies launched out exceedingly in favour of my complexion, and beſtowed great incomiums on the whiteneſs of my ſkin, and brilliancy of my eyes (compliments then wholly new, I wiſh they had always continued ſo) nor were the gentlemen ſilent, at which the ladies were ſo

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far from being affronted, that on the contrary they expreſſed the higheſt tokens of their approbation.

LADY Goodiſon aſked me whoſe daughter I was? I anſwered her with a good deal of confuſion, and told her that I was really intirely ignorant of the matter; that I lived with my godfather and godmother, who took care of me through charity. What, replied the lady, do not you know who your parents are? no madam, ſaid I, they were very poor people at London, who were unable to ſupport the expences of my education. But my dear, ſaid the lady, what makes you be alone, have you no playfellows in the village? I am not very fond of company, ſaid I, but am very well pleaſed with being alone, indeed that is the only pleaſure I have, being quite tired of the country. You would like better I ſuppoſe, ſaid another lady,

lady, to live altogether in town. Indeed madam, replied I, that is a queſtion I am altogether unable to anſwer, having never been there ſince an infant. An odd thought, ſays lady Goodiſon, has juſt ſtarted into my head, being fully perſuaded, now I put all the circumſtances together, that this child belongs to ſome perſon of diſtinction, and that there are ſome extraordinary reaſons for her being concealed under this diſguiſe; you are much in the right, ſaid another lady, to call this laſt thought of yours an odd one, ſince I believe no one elſe except your ladyſhip could ever have had ſo amazing an invention; pray what one circumſtance is there that gives the leaſt probability to what you have been ſaying? it is true indeed the girl is tolerably genteel as to her perſon, but then her manner is exceedingly aukward; it is no ſuch very extraordinary matter for

the child to have an underſtanding above her real condition. All this was pronounced with a ſurprizing volubility, and embelliſhed with ſuch immoderate horſe-laughs, that it was ſcarce poſſible to diſtinguiſh what ſhe was ſaying.

LADY Goodiſon bluſhed, and ſeemed a good deal diſconcerted at the raillery that had been put upon her, as likewiſe at the indecent manner in which it had been offered. She recovered herſelf however preſently, and her natural compaſſion made her pity me on account of the little diſgrace I had undergone, ſhe pulled out a crown and gave it me immediately. The whole company ſeemed rather picqued at her generoſity which had exerted itſelf ſo oddly, as thinking them unworthy of becoming contributors. They therfore made a gathering of about twenty ſhillings, which they would

would fain have had me accept, but I refuſed it, alledging, by way of plea for my ſo doing, that I did not want for any thing, and that my godmother indulged me in whatever I had a mind to. They were not at all ſatisfied with this excuſe, but ſtill inſiſted on my taking it: the more they preſſed me, the more firmly I continued to refuſe, and did it in a manner which aſtoniſhed them all prodigiouſly.

LADY Goodiſon, who was already ſufficiently prepoſſeſſed in my favour, found ſomewhat in my manner of refuſing that ſeemed to juſtify the opinion ſhe had before taken up; notwithſtanding therefore the little deference that the company had paid to her, ſhe could not help declaring her impatience to be better informed who I was. It began now to grow duſkiſh, and my godmother,

godmother, who was uneaſy at my ſtaying out ſo late, had ſent out her daughter Nanny in queſt of me, who knowing that I uſed frequently to walk in the meadow, came thither accordingly to look for me: Nanny's complexion was exceedingly ſun-burnt, which was no wonder as ſhe was expoſed to all ſorts of weather; had I been taken no better care of, I ſhould certainly have been in the very ſame ſituation. I have only mentioned this circumſtance to ſhew the partiality that my godmother had for me. Nay, they frequently carried this partiality to ſuch a height, that they treated me with all the reſpect that would have been due to me, had I been in ever ſuch ſplendid circumſtances. Now as my birth was a ſecret to every one but themſelves, they by this means frequently expoſed themſelves to a good deal of uneaſineſs, which, had they had leſs conſideration

for

for me, would certainly have been ſpared.

CHAP. IV.

Miſs's pride hurt. The progreſs of the female mind diſtinctly traced. A ſtroke of good fortune. A tender parting.

THE girl abovementioned called me to an account for having given her ſo much trouble, and reproached me for her mother's indulgence to me in letting me have my own way; I made no other anſwer to her than by my tears. In the ſituation I was then in, it gave me a good deal of anxiety to ſee myſelf humbled before a ſet of people who were all of them ſufficiently ſet againſt me, except lady Goodiſon. Indeed juſt at this time my mind was agitated by two different emotions, the one reſembling ſhame at being humbled

humbled in ſuch a manner, and by ſuch a perſon; the other not much unlike a ſecret ſatisfaction, in having an opportunity of ſhewing my protectreſs, that I was very far from being happy. I ſoon perceived that ſhe grew intereſted in my behalf, and on this occaſion my pride was as much gratified, as it had been before diſappointed, and this too, juſt at the time when a diſtinction was making between Nanny and myſelf, by giving her the money which they had been aſhamed of having even offered for my acceptance.

She took it without the leaſt heſitation, and accordingly anſwered their expectations; ſhe then made her courteſy, took me under the arm, and with an air of as much ſatisfaction as ſhe had before ſhewn of chagrin, come Emily, ſaid ſhe, you need not be afraid in the leaſt, my father and mother are not at all angry,

gry, beſides, if they were, here is ſomething to put them in good humour. Notwithſtanding her utmoſt endeavours to pull me away, it was with much reluctance that I went; I had paid my reſpects to the company with an air of much diſcontent, which however immediately vaniſhed on my protectreſs's deſiring me to come thither the Sunday following.

As ſoon as I went home, my godmother aſked me what made me ſtay out ſo late? her daughter replied for me, and told her mother that it was very lucky I had, ſince if I had come home ſooner ſhe would have miſſed of ſome money, which ſome fine ladies had given her. My godmother was very inquiſitive to know the whole affair, accordingly I gave her an account of every thing that had happened, with relation to the money, omitting

ting, indeed, the circumſtances of the affront that had been offered me, and of lady Goodiſon's conjecture; indeed I can give no other reaſon for concealing this part of the ſtory, than becauſe I felt a ſurprizing alteration within myſelf ever ſince this adventure. Hitherto I had lived in a calm and compoſed ſtate of tranquility, without troubling myſelf much with reflection. (And here by the way, gentle reader, permit me to obſerve to thee, that thinking is the bane of life, the antidote to joy; 'tis indeed the privilege of human nature, but it often proves its ſoreſt curſe; and if thou wouldeſt take my opinion of the matter, it is this, that it would be far better for us not to think at all, than either to think to no purpoſe, like the giddy, or to think only to be the more miſerable like the diſtreſſed and afflicted part of mankind) I had before obſerved, that

I was as yet wholly unaccuſtomed to reflection, but now a conſiderable number of different ideas entered my mind at once, inſomuch, that tho' I was perpetually thinking, yet the reſult was nothing but confuſion; my imagination was perpetually labouring; I formed numberleſs little ſchemes, and in the general envied greatly the lot of thoſe whom I had juſt parted with; I thought them the happieſt people in the world, on account of the wealth they had in their diſpoſal. My little knowledge of the world made me draw concluſions entirely from outward appearances, without conſidering that their exalted ſituation had their particular portion of diſquietude, as well as the inferior ones, and that they were therefore eſteemed the moſt happy, becauſe by the generality of the world they were moſt unknown. I waited for the return of Sunday with the utmoſt impatience,

impatience, at laſt the much wiſhed for day come, and in purſuance of my appointment I went into the meadow, in the very heat of the day, and ſtaid a conſiderable time by myſelf; in ſhort I began to imagine my protectreſs would not be there, when all of a ſudden I perceived her coming into the field.

I IMMEDIATELY ran up to her, and took hold of her hand; ſhe was much pleaſed with this proof of my preference, and embraced me in return very affectionately; my dear, ſaid ſhe, you was unwilling to take money the laſt time you was here, we have brought you a few trifles in return, which you may accept of without bluſhing, and which will not offend your delicacy by any means.

THE Company immediately ſat down on the graſs. Lady Goodiſon

ſon made me ſit down cloſe by her. She made me a preſent of a pair of ſilk ſtockings and ſome gloves, looking earneſtly at me to obſerve the impreſſion it would make on me. I bluſhed, but not through confuſion ſo much as through exceſs of pleaſure, which, notwithſtanding all my endeavours to the contrary, I was unable to prevent from appearing in my countenance.

One of the other ladies made me a preſent of a dreſſed cap, and a third of a handſome piece of muſlin. To this one gentleman added a box of ribbons, and another an exceeding rich box, which I underſtood afterwards was to keep patches in. I was ſo aſtoniſhed at theſe ſeveral preſents, that I was unable to make any reply, even ſo much as to thank them. Well Emily, ſaid lady Goodiſon, what do you ſay to all theſe fine things? I am afraid, madam, ſaid

I, of not ſaying enough, but yet I feel as much gratitude, as you can deſire, and immediately I took hold of her hand and kiſſed it with much emotion. This openneſs, ſaid ſhe, is infinitely preferable to the moſt ſtudied compliment, as it is an undoubted proof of your ſpeaking from your heart: Emily, continued ſhe, have you a mind to come and live with me? I do not know, madam, reply'd I, whether my godmother would give her conſent; as to myſelf, I ſhould think myſelf exceedingly happy. And which of us, ſaid one of the other ladies, would you chuſe to live with? If you will come to me, I will give you ribbons enough. Another told me that I ſhould always go well dreſſed. As to myſelf, ſaid lady Goodiſon, I ſhall always look upon her as my daughter, and conſequently ſhall learn her to bluſh for nothing but her faults; and

and to ſpeak to people of faſhion without that baſhfulneſs ſhe is now troubled with. And the doing this will be the beſt proof I can give her of my affection and eſteem. Inſtead of making any anſwer, I immediately threw myſelf into lady Goodiſon's arms.

You ſee plainly, ſaid ſhe to the reſt of the company, that Emily prefers a good education to all the finery that is in your power to beſtow. Can there be a better diſpoſition? what a misfortune would it be to let it be wholly loſt for want of improvement; I have really a great mind to take her home with me: I have neither children nor dependants, and the bringing her up will be ſomewhat of an amuſement. The reſt of the company remained entirely ſilent, being willing, in all probability, to ſee how ſhe had determined

termined to act, that they might approve her behaviour, let it be which way it would. She then aſked me where my godmother lived? and having taken down the direction in her pocket book, embraced me and took her leave. What madam, ſaid I, will not you go along with me? no my dear, ſaid ſhe, I will come ſome other time, and then went away immediately. I ſtood ſtill for ſome time in deep reflection on what had happened; I was not a little chagrined that lady Goodiſon did not go to my godmothers with me, beſides that I was apprehenſive that I ſhould ſee her no more. I determined to conceal the incident of her intending to come, that I might not be laughed at in caſe ſhe ſhould chance to diſappoint me. After a review therefore of the ſeveral preſents that had been made me, I returned home.

NANNY

NANNY, as I imagined ſhe would, grew jealous on account of the ſeveral things that had been given me, inſomuch, that my godmother found it a difficult matter to quiet her. She told me, however, that the next time I went thither, ſhe would accompany me herſelf, in order to know who were my benefactors. Two days after this, lady Goodiſon and one of the other ladies came to my godmother's (the reſt of the company were waiting for them in the meadow) She was exceedingly ſurpriſed at this unexpected honour, for I had not dared to forewarn her of it, for the reaſon abovementioned. Lady Goodiſon, after having ſpoke to me for ſome time, took my godmother aſide and talked with her in private. I could not, indeed, diſtinguiſh what they were ſaying, but I found out, ſome time after, that not a word of the ſecret which my mother had imparted

parted to her maid, had been diſcovered, or indeed ſo much as hinted at. This exceſſive prudence, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, proved my ruin in the end. After ſome time I was called in, and preſented to lady Goodiſon by my godmother, who without any round-about expreſſions, gave me a leſſon of wholeſome advice, and then took her leave, but not without ſome emotion. Her huſband was likewiſe exceeding ſorry to part with me, which he teſtified by his tears; as to Nanny, ſhe was ſo provoked at the notice that had been taken of me, that ſhe refuſed to make her appearance, and went and hid herſelf.

I ACCORDINGLY went home with lady Goodiſon. Notwithſtanding the happineſs which this change of ſituation ſeemed to promiſe, yet I could not leave my godfather and godmother without much reluctance. I had never

never known any other parents, and they had brought me up all along with the utmoſt tenderneſs imaginable; it is not therefore to be wondered at, that this parting made an impreſſion on me. Lady Goodiſon very kindly participated my concern, and told me that this reluctance tended to raiſe me in her eſteem, that ſhe was heartily glad to find that this alteration in my circumſtances had not filled me with pride, which but too often choaks all ſentiments of gratitude; that I lay, undoubtedly, under great obligations to my godmother, without whoſe benevolent aſſiſtance I muſt infallibly have been expoſed to all the ſad conſequences of a friendleſs indigence; in ſhort, that had it not been for my godmother I ſhould never have been in my preſent happy ſituation. She concluded this ſpeech with a tender embrace. We ſoon got into the meadow where the reſt of the company

were waiting for us. Every one seemed pleased with the alteration that had taken place, and put a number of questions to me with respect to my sentiments upon it; but in such a confused manner, that even supposing I had known much more of the world than I really did, it would have been with great difficulty that I should have brought myself to make any tolerable reply.

CHAP. V.

Several uncommon characters drawn from nature, who exerts herself oftentimes in whimsical productions.

MR. Bampton, who was one of the company at lady Goodison's and of whom we shall have occasion to speak very frequently in the course of these memoirs; besides, being of a good family, had a very good understanding, and an engaging person

perſon. He was univerſally beloved by the women, notwithſtanding he was continually deceiving them, and pulling them to pieces: coxcombical by nature, ſo imperious and giddy, even to an abſurdity, that one would almoſt imagine they liked him for his frailties, which were ſet off by his manner of introducing them. Whatever was the cauſe, the effect was viſible. He had been a conſiderable favourite ever ſince his coming into company, and he had enjoyed above theſe ten years the reputation of being able to ſoften the moſt obdurate, to touch the greateſt coquets, and out-rival even thoſe who had been long in poſſeſſion; or if he ſometimes fail'd of ſucceſs, yet he always turned matters ſo much to his advantage, that he was the reputed, though not the real object of admiration. He had a ſet of phraſes by rote, which notwithſtanding their being thoroughly ſtudied, had ne-

vertheleſs the air of ſudden invention. He was perfectly maſter of the art of pleaſing in converſation, and this either through the matter of his diſcourſe, or his particular manner of turning it. He had likewiſe paid great attention to the ſetting off his perſon, and the giving himſelf thoſe airs, which it is equally impoſſible either to imitate or deſcribe; and yet there were people who were continually aping him, and who rendered themſelves by that means more diſagreeable than ever. This lively impertinence ſeemed the peculiar gift of nature, which ſat eaſily on no one beſide the perſon ſo endowed. He was open to flattery, and as this was his reigning foible, it was turned in the end to his unavoidable deſtruction.

But to proceed. The company conſiſted of three perſons more, whoſe names indeed are not material to this

this hiſtory; but their characters, it is probable, may not be unacceptable to the reader. One of the ladies, whom for diſtinction ſake I ſhall call lady F———, was one of thoſe very fine ladies, who profeſs themſelves indifferent to the opinion of the world, and who are rather known by the enormity of their foibles, than by any other mark of diſtinction; who have no other conſideration for the name they bear, than as it is a means of indulging them in whatſoever their folly or vanity may ſuggeſt, and in the loweſt adventures, having conſtant recourſe to the depravity of the times, as to a never failing excuſe. Without reputation, and without much paſſion; weak, and yet unaffected, yielding perpetually thro' an idea of delight which they never feel, and, in ſhort, of a kind of women whom one can neither excuſe nor pity.

LADY F——— had formerly been handſome, but was now at a time of life when the bloom is quite over, and a ſingle year in that æra does terrible execution. Her tawdry dreſs and indecent behaviour increaſed greatly the diſlike of every one who beheld her. She was one of thoſe who have no other remains of youth but thoſe exceſſes which are only pardonable in that age, tho' certainly even then it cannot but be offenſive, but which in a more advanced time of life, only ſets before one's eyes a portrait of deformity, which fills the mind with horror.

As to her underſtanding, ſhe was by no means deficient; that is, ſhe had that ſort which one frequently meets with. There was no great matter in what ſhe ſaid, but ſhe allowed herſelf the liberty of ſaying every thing ſhe had a mind to, and con-

conſequently dealt very liberally in defamation, a kind of commodity which thoſe traders never let lay on their hands, but ſhift it off to one another with incredible diſpatch. As ſhe never thought well of any one in her life, ſo ſhe never made the leaſt ſcruple of ſpeaking out her opinion. She was a perfect miſtreſs of thoſe court jeſts and phraſes, which ſhe generally put off with an amazing indolence, and is oftentimes affected, though miſtaken for the effect of nature, and can only be termed a more tedious method of trifling.

A SECOND lady of this aſſembly was a finiſhed coquet: Two or three little incidents which had in ſome meaſure hurt her reputation, had given her a great diſtaſte to the pleaſures of the beau monde, at leaſt for that part of them which conſiſts a good deal in making a ſplendid figure. Grown, if not leſs ſuſceptible of ten-

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der impreſſions, yet much more diſcreet. She at length diſcovered that women do not prejudice themſelves ſo much by their foibles as by their imprudent behaviour in the management of them, and found that ſecreſy does by no means abate from the tranſports of love. The great reſerve ſhe had taken upon her, made the greater part believe her character had been miſrepreſented, and indeed her perſon and age helped to favour the deceit. She was very handſome, and would naturally command reſpect, even had ſhe not put on ſo grave a deportment. By giving up, or at leaſt by pretending to give up all the arts of addreſs, ſhe by that means was more capable of making an impreſſion, and this was a kind of artifice made uſe of to repair the diſparagement which forty years could not well fail of giving her.

INDEED ſhe was little the worſe for her age, except that ſhe had loſt that bloom which conſtantly diſappears when the flower of youth is over and which the women themſelves often ſpoil by endeavouring to improve. She was lively without giddineſs, diſcreet, yet much on the reſerve. Her converſation was eaſy and ſenſible. She had ſtudied both the ſexes thoroughly, and was intimately acquainted with all the ſprings of action that influence each. She knew how to wait to gratify her reſentment as well as her love of pleaſure; and could eaſily put up with a diſappointment for the preſent. Although ſhe affected the prude, ſhe was exceeding agreeable. She did not think that women ſhould be entirely without foibles, but that it was ſincere love alone that could render them venial; a way of talking much in faſhion amongſt the women, and which makes that part of them who contradict it

by their behaviour, only the more contemptible.

OUR reader may perhaps have a ſurfeit of the deſcriptive; we will therefore compromiſe the matter, and give him one character more, namely the hon. mr. S———. He was a kind of man who was continually talking to you of his family, which, by the by, notwithſtanding the word honourable prefixed to his name, was nothing very extraordinary. He would fain too have paſſed for a man of great valour, but this was not a ſubject upon which he was very troubleſome. Two or three little incidents that had turned out to his diſadvantage, in which perhaps our hero had been kicked down ſtairs, or taken by the noſe in a public coffee-room, had cured him of his boaſting. Born without underſtanding and addreſs, without an agreeable perſon or the advantage of

a good fortune, he owed his admittance to the whims of the women, and the protection of mr. Bampton. In ſhort, he was fooliſh, preſumptuous, impudent, as incapable of thinking well, as he was of ſhame for thinking ill; and if he had not been a buffoon, one would have had reaſon to have wonder'd how he could poſſibly have been ſupported. But to reſume the thread of my narration:

I WAS unable to make any anſwer to the queſtions which the reader may remember lady Goodiſon put to me, I remained entirely ſilent, and buſied myſelf in wiping away my tears, which as yet remained on my face. After walking ſome time we got to lady Goodiſon's. The hon. mr. Bampton who had made me a preſent of the handſome box aforementioned, did not ſay a ſingle ſyllable, but contented himſelf with looking

looking at me very intently. As ſoon as we came in, lady Goodiſon called her waiting maid, and gave her a ſtrict charge concerning me, deſiring her to divert me as well as ſhe could till the morrow, when ſhe intended to ſend me to London to have me compleatly dreſſed, and that ſhe would give the neceſſary directions before ſhe went to bed.

ACCORDINGLY lady Goodiſon gave orders to Lettice to accompany me to London, in order to change my dreſs, telling me at the ſame time, that if I had a mind to behave agreeably to her, I could not ſhew it more than by following Lettice's directions. As ſoon as I was up in the morning, I went to take my leave of my dear benefactreſs, who deſired me to have a particular care of my inward behaviour, rather than of my outward apparel. She ordered Lettice to conſider me in the light of

of her miſtreſs's daughter, and as ſuch to treat me with all poſſible reſpect, adding withal, that there were reaſons of the utmoſt importance for her giving this direction. I then took my leave, and got into the coach that was waiting to convey me.

We got to London in the duſk of the evening, Lettice however had taken the precaution to draw up the windows very cloſe, that no one might ſee me in my preſent apparel. Notwithſtanding the eagerneſs I felt to ſatisfy my curioſity with reſpect to a city which I had heard ſo much talk of. I yielded without any reluctance, as ſoon as ever I knew the reaſon. Thus my own ſelf-love was gratified at a very eaſy expence. As I was a good deal fatigued with my journey I went to bed as ſoon as I could, and did not wake till rouzed by Lettice, who told me it was time to get up. Great part of the morning

ning was ſpent in giving me inſtructions for my future conduct, and in particular deſired me not to betray any ſurprize, which as it was an undoubted mark of great ignorance, ſo it was generally looked upon by people of faſhion with contempt. Lettice ſhewed me the palace in the afternoon, which notwithſtanding the leſſon that had been given me in the morning, excited my aſtoniſhment, not only in my countenance, but in my geſtures and diſcourſe. It is true indeed, that I had already ſeen one of the palaces in the country, but I had not at that time ſufficient diſcernment to diſcover that the furniture of the one was only neat, while the other was to the laſt degree ſumptuous and magnificent. I had never ſeen any thing equal to what I now beheld; as I did not know the uſe of a great deal of the furniture, I was continually putting queſtions to Lettice, who anſwered me

me with a good deal of complacency, and without impoſing on my ſimplicity in the leaſt. She obſerved very punctually lady Goodiſon's directions, and behaved to me with as much reverence and condeſcenſion as if I had been her miſtreſs in reality.

I EMBRACED very eagerly any opportunity that ſeemed to offer itſelf for my inſtruction. I felt a ſecret ſatisfaction to myſelf whilſt I was walking in the midſt of all this magnificence, during which time I felt an emotion which it is very difficult indeed to give the reader a full idea of, but which ſeemed to ſuggeſt that I had not been ſo wholly unaccuſtomed to finery as my ruſtick education would give me room to think, and which charmed me in in ſuch a manner that I ſhould have found it a difficult matter to perſuade myſelf to return to my godfather

godfather and mother, whoſe loſs I had bewailed ſo heavily but the night before.

WHILE I was traverſing the apartments, I frequently viewed my own figure in the looking glaſſes, and could not help reflecting how inconſiſtent the homelineſs of my habit was with the beauty of my perſon: Lettice, who had a good deal of diſcernment, ſoon perceived the nature of my emotions, ſhe took me therefore by the hand, and in a whiſpering tone of voice, come away, ſaid ſhe, lovely Emily, leave, for a while, theſe ſplendid rooms, which ſeem indeed to have been built purpoſely for your accommodation, but with which your preſent cloaths are altogether inconſiſtent; I ſhall immediately endeavour to procure you a dreſs which will be more worthy both of the place you are in, and of yourſelf.

WE

We accordingly went home and dined, as ſoon as that was over Lettice told me ſhe was going out to get the neceſſary preparations for my appearing in public, in the mean time ſhe put into my hands a novel called the princeſs of Cleves, which ſhe deſired I would read with ſo much attention as to be able to give her ſome account of it when ſhe came back, and indeed I gave her no indifferent proof of the goodneſs of my memory, by repeating great part of the ſtory I had been reading. She ſhewed me the ſeveral purchaſes ſhe had been making. The reader may eaſily imagine how eager I was to try on the ſeveral particulars; ſhe dreſſed me herſelf in ſuch a manner as not to let the ſeveral tradeſmen whom ſhe had appointed to come, know who I was. She put on my cap, which produced an amazing alteration in my looks, and ſo familiar

liar is vanity to the human heart, that I began to think more highly of my perſon in proportion as it became more ſplendidly adorned.

THUS much however may be alledged by way of excuſe, that I was only fourteen years of age, had been brought up wholly in the country, and therefore it is no wonder that I was much aſtoniſhed at the ſight of what I had never before beheld. My cloaths were freſh ſubjects for admiration. Indeed Lettice herſelf could not forbear wondering at the prodigious altration, and enjoyed beforehand the ſurprize which ſhe was ſure I ſhould produce in lady Goodiſon. Nor was ſhe at all leſs ſollicitous about my behaviour that it might be of a piece with my outward appearance. She took me to the opera, and very frequently to the play, in ſhort it was owing to her care that in a fortnight's time, I was wholly alter'd from what

I had before been. Whenever ſhe was at leiſure I us'd to read ſome book of entertainment and inſtruction, in the courſe of which ſhe took care to explain whatever I did not underſtand. The alteration was ſo great that I could not help being much ſtruck with it myſelf I bluſh'd at a thouſand little ſillineſſes which would have ſlipped from me before, and which I now thought would have placed me in a very ridiculous light.

CHAP. VI.

A ſurprizing metamorphoſis. Emily *returns to the country.* *A fineſſe of lady* Goodiſon's.

MY generous benefactreſs on ſeeing me returned in ſo different a ſituation both as to dreſs and behaviour from that in which I ſat out, beſtowed

beſtowed the higheſt commendations upon Lettice which indeed ſhe well deſerved: ſhe reſolved to conceal me from the reſt of the company till ſupper time, when ſhe imagined that I had undergone ſo great an alteration that none of them would know me. This little fineſſe did not however fully ſucceed, nevertheleſs ſhe was extremely well ſatisfied with the compliments that were paid me by every one on the occaſion. As ſoon as ſupper was ſerved up, ſhe ſent for me, Lettice had given me directions over and over with reſpect to my behaviour on coming into the parlour.

I accordingly went in, dreſſed every brilliantly, which however appeared the more ſo, on account of the number of lights. My aukward courteſey however betray'd me for I was ſo extremely ſtruck on firſt going into the apartment that I loſt all command

mand over myſelf and ſcarce knew what I did.

My baſhfulneſs, which was very natural to a perſon in my circumſtances, the impatience to hear what the company would ſay of me, the apprehenſion that they would not ſpeak ſo much in my favour as I could wiſh, all this together made me loſe entirely the benefit of Lettice's inſtructions, tho' lady Goodiſon, had not been let into the ſecret of my birth yet ſhe had put together a ſtory which ſhe had ſuited to the notions ſhe had taken up of me when ſhe found me in the meadow. Her intention in this, was to recommend me more effectually to the notice of others, and to inſpire them with other ſentiments than thoſe of pity for me, which in certain caſes is ſo far from relieving that it oftentimes adds to the diſtreſs of the perſons ſo pitied.

But

BUT this was not all, by this means too ſhe avoided or at leaſt rendered ineffectual, the miſplaced haughtineſs of ſeveral people who are fooliſh enough to arraign their fellow creatures, and to treat them as criminals, on account of their low birth, and therefore without this little artifice, I ſhould never have been received in publick with any tolerable degree of civility. In ſhort there are a number of people who are governed entirely by the little prepoſſeſſions which they take up oftentimes without the leaſt appearance of reaſon, but which when once admitted, are ſeldom if ever got the better of.

AFTER having been in the room ſome time, I began to recover, and acquitted myſelf upon the whole, better than had at firſt been expected. Lady Goodiſon, in the exceſs of her zeal was continually proclaiming what

what ſhe intended to do for me. The reſt of the company kept up the converſation out of complacency to her I imagine, for they could not ſurely be much intereſted or entertained with it themſelves. Mr. Bampton was the only perſon who was entirely ſilent; this deficiency however was abundantly ſupplied by his looks: theſe were ſo conſtantly directed towards me, that lady Goodiſon could not help taking notice of it. As ſhe had always been upon a very eaſy footing with him, ſhe did not make any ſcruple of chiding him for his behaviour, to which he made no other reply than by a ſmile, which at beſt was but a very dubious anſwer; my benefactreſs upon this attacked him very ſeriouſly, and the converſation, which till then had run on very general topics, became particular, being wholly confined to thoſe two, and indeed was kept up

for

for ſome time with a good deal of ſpirit.

LADY Goodiſon imagined that mr. Bampton diſapproved of what ſhe had been doing in my behalf; this ſuſpicion fired her in an inſtant, and by degrees ſhe grew perfectly enraged inſomuch that as I was apprehenſive of the conſequences that might enſue, I got up of my own accord, and went out of the room. I went up immediately into my own apartment, in ſo viſible an emotion that Lettice ſoon perceived it; I gave her an account from the beginning to the end, and added withal my own apprehenſions that it might prejudice me greatly in lady Goodiſon's opinion. Lettice did all that was in her power to comfort me, aſſuring me from the long experience ſhe had had, that her miſtreſs never relinquiſhed what ſhe had once undertaken. I found no great difficulty in perſuading myſelf

ſelf to believe what it was ſo much my intereſt ſhould be true.

LADY Goodiſon ſent for me the next morning, and told me that it was abſolutely neceſſary for her to ſend me to a boarding ſchool, till ſhe had taken ſome meaſures then in agitation, that indeed ſhe was not at all ſorry for this neceſſity, inaſmuch as I ſhould have time to regulate my behaviour, before my appearance in public; it being her misfortune to have her deſigns croſſed at preſent, by people who pretended to have a right to controul her; but that however ſhe ſhould in a very little time be miſtreſs of her own actions: ſhe concluded by ſaying that Lettice ſhould accompany me thither, that it was highly neceſſary that my birth, (low as ſhe imagined) ſhould be kept a ſecret from the people in the ſchool, who were as likely to be prejudiced againſt

people of low birth, as the men of fashion: Lastly, she desired I would be attentive to Lettice's instructions, who she had observed had taken a great fancy to me. I was unable to make any other reply than by my tears. I could not so much as bring out a single syllable, notwithstanding my utmost endeavours. I viewed every circumstance in the most unfavourable light, and concluded upon the whole, that they were going to send me back again to my godfather and godmother, to which I was so wholly averse, that I know not whether I should not have preferred a condition of the utmost misery to so dismal a situation as it then appeared.

Lady Goodison, without enquiring into the cause of my concern, seemed to take it to herself. Not doubting in her own mind, but that it proceeded from my unwillingness to leave her, she told me very affectionately

tionately that our ſeparation ſhould be ſo exceedingly ſhort, as that I ſhould ſcarce have time to miſs her. Had I known as much of the world then, as I afterwards did, here was a fine opportunity offered for paying her a compliment, but I was then entirely unexperienced in all the little arts of flattery and inſinuation, and therefore went out of the room without making any reply.

LETTICE, after much diſcourſe, aſſured me that the putting me into a ſchool for ſome time, was not only highly uſeful, but abſolutely neceſſary; that it would have been extremely dangerous to myſelf to have removed me at once into a ſituation ſo much the reverſe of what I had till then been accuſtomed to; that I might through imprudence and inexperience have ruined myſelf before I was aware of it; whereas now, I had time to conſider and reflect, that

ſhe would endeavour to give me an idea of the world in theory, that I might not be at a loſs when I came to view its practice.

THIS, however made but a very ſlight impreſſion. I heard indeed her tongue continually going, but paid no manner of attention to what ſhe had been ſaying, keeping my eyes fixed on the ground. This perplexed poſture of my body denoted well the inward anxiety of my mind, and was indeed the prelude of all the ſad misfortunes which afterwards befel me. At length, however, I began to come to myſelf, and my tears flowing in great abundance, gave at once a vent to my grief, and engaged my attention to what Lettice was ſaying, which quieted me in ſome meaſure.

AS ſoon as dinner was over, lady Goodiſon ſent for me into her cloſet, and

and gave orders at the ſame time to get every thing ready for my departure. As ſoon as I was ſeated, my dear Emily, ſaid ſhe, you ſee what I am doing for you. Were I indeed to guide myſelf by the advice of ſome others, I ſhould take no farther trouble about you, but why ſhould I comply with their unreaſonable prejudices? you have well deſerved my friendſhip, not only by the ſimplicity and innocence of your behaviour, but likewiſe by the preference you were pleaſed to give me to the reſt of the company; and this at a time when I had as yet done nothing to engage your eſteem, and when you was too artleſs to know the ſentiments which I entertained in your behalf: I am determined therefore, that you ſhall not fall a ſacrifice to the idle humours of others. I am going to carry you myſelf to a ſchool I have pitched upon for you, which is but ſix miles diſtant from hence.

I SHALL give out that you are the daughter of a diſtant relation of mine in the country, and this will account for that awkwardneſs which you have not as yet been able to wear off: you muſt have diſcretion enough to be upon your guard againſt impertinent queſtions, and in order to avoid them, I cannot adviſe you better than to keep conſtantly with Lettice, who will ſecure you from any of thoſe falſe ſteps into which you might thro' inexperience run. You may depend upon it, that you ſhall not want for any thing that is in my power to ſupply you with; I ſhall come and ſee you frequently, and deſire you will accompliſh yourſelf as ſoon as poſſible, that you may appear in publick to the greateſt advantage. Remember that your return hither depends, in a great meaſure, on your conformity to Lettice's inſtructions, this

this will ſurely, if any thing, add wings to your deſire of improvement, and then you need not fear being as happy as I can make you.

I TOOK hold of one of her hands, which I kiſſed with great emotion, and indeed this tender and affectionate advice had raiſed her highly in my eſteem, and taught me to conſider her in the light of an indulgent mother. Happy period of freedom and innocence; why doſt thou ſo ſwiftly take thy flight for ever? Is virtue then wholly alienated from thoſe whoſe ſenſations are moſt tender? and is it only the inſenſible part of mankind that conform themſelves to its dictates? this ſhould ſeem to be the caſe, when thoſe whoſe compoſitions are more ſoft and delicate find it ſo difficult a matter to cultivate, or even to retain it.

WORD was now brought that the coach was at the door, and that every thing was ready. We ſet out immediately; the time of our journey was carefully employed by my benefactreſs in making ſuch additions to the advice before given, as ſhe thought neceſſary or expedient. Alas, how ungrateful a return did ſhe afterwards receive; but I was deſtined to complete the deſtruction of all thoſe who had any thing to do with me We got ſoon to the place appointed. Lady Goodiſon introduced me to the miſtreſs on our arrival. I was ſo aſtoniſhed at the novelty of the place, and its difference from any thing that I had ever before ſeen, that I could not ſay a ſyllable. I took hold of Lettice with one hand, and of lady Goodiſon's gown with the other; my heart grew much diſturbed at the ſight of the iron grate, and I could ſcarce help

help fancying to myſelf that I was going into a dungeon.

LETTICE could not forbear laughing, for ſhe ſoon perceived the cauſe of my anxiety, which ſhe very ſoon convinced me of the folly of, without, however, being heard by the two ladies, who as they had not ſeen each other for a long ſpace of time before, had ſo much to ſay, that they could not attend very cloſely to us. However, at laſt a deep ſigh which unguardedly ſtole from me, made lady Goodiſon look at me, and ſhe immediately preſſed my hand with a great deal of tenderneſs, as a proof that ſhe herſelf participated in my concern.

THE miſtreſs immediately aſked her, whether it was againſt my conſent; to which my benefactreſs replied, that my preſent anxiety was owing rather to my earneſt deſire of

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ſeeing my mother, than any reluctance at coming thither, and ſhe laid hold of that opportunity to tell her ſomewhat of my ſtory. She began by ſaying, that my mother had been caſt in a law-ſuit, which had deprived her of the greater part of her fortune; that ſhe came to London with an intention to appeal to the houſe of lords, and that being a diſtant relation and an intimate friend of hers, had deſired her to look out for a ſchool for her daughter, where I might be near her till her ſuit was ended. She added withal, that tho my family was good, my fortune was exceeding ſmall, and that upon the whole, my caſe was greatly deſerving of compaſſion.

THE miſtreſs replied, that it was undoubtedly by the ſpecial appointment of divine providence that my mother had left the choice of a ſchool to lady Goodiſon, who having no children

children of her own, had it in her power to ſupply the deficiencies of my fortune, and could ſettle me handſomely, not in the world, for that would be endangering my everlaſting ſalvation, but in her houſe, where the expence would be very ſmall, and where I ſhould not be liable to be corrupted by the vicious maxims and practices of the age we live in; that this was a good work, which heaven put in her power to perform, and that therefore it ought not by any means to be neglected.

As ſoon as I heard the latter part of this harangue, I turned pale on a ſudden, and my blood run cold within me. Lettice, who had hold of my hand, ſoon perceived my emotion, and took notice of it to lady Goodiſon. The miſtreſs continued talking, but in vain, as to me, for I did not attend to what ſhe ſaid. My beneſactreſs embraced me very tenderly,

tenderly, and this brought me to myſelf; indeed ſhe was afraid that I ſhould let drop any thing that might contradict the ſtory ſhe had been telling, and in order to prevent this, ſhe ſent the miſtreſs out of the way as ſoon as ſhe could.

When the miſtreſs was gone, ſhe chid me for not relying on her ſo much as I ought. What, Emily, ſaid ſhe, have not you diſcernment enough to diſcover that I would fain ſtand you in ſtead of a mother, and did not the precaution, juſt taken, of putting you off for my relation, convince you that I was willing you ſhould be conſidered as ſuch, and and ſince I am behaving to you in ſuch a manner, as to enſure you a reſpect which they would never pay you, if they knew the true ſecret of your birth? Does not then the ſtory I have made give me a kind of right to intereſt myſelf in your behalf,

and

and is it not this which has at once ſet you above all the little malice of the world? Do you really think that what the miſtreſs has been ſaying can have any effect on the reſolutions I have already taken? ſhe is not indeed to be blamed in the leaſt, as what ſhe ſaid was the dictate of a holy zeal; but you perceive that ſhe ſpoke afterwards of the circumſtances you were in; you ought therefore to be ſo far from being diſpleaſed with her, that you are really under an obligation to her. You may depend upon this, that I ſhall not ſuffer myſelf to be overperſuaded by her. I have already told you, that your return depends on your compliance with Lettice's directions, the more attentive therefore you are to her, the ſooner I ſhall ſee you.

THE reader, I ſuppoſe, may eaſily perceive by this time, that lady Goodiſon was the very model of generoſity;

neroſity; how then could it become a little girl, who was utterly unknown to her, and who had been taken notice of merely through ſentiments of of compaſſion, to appear diſſatisfied with what had been done, and to pretend to have humours and whims of her own? Indeed no one but ſo indulgent a woman would have put up with this behaviour; and yet this very indulgence proved fatal in its conſequences. Alas, why did ſhe not controul my will while it was in her power ſo to do? Indeed I ſhould have been thoroughly happy had ſhe followed the miſtreſs's advice, for my knowledge of the world was ſo exceeding trifling, that the little impreſſion it had made on me, would have been very ſoon effaced. It would have coſt me a few tears at firſt, which would quickly have been wiped off, and my attention been diverted by the arrival of new objects to engage it.

I SHOULD then have quitted the world with innocence, and the ſchool would to me have been an aſylum from care; but this was by no means deſtined to be my lot; my life was doomed to be checquer'd by ſeveral afflicting ſtrokes of fortune, and ſhall think myſelf ſufficiently happy if my preſent ſorrow can make any atonement for my paſt imprudence. The time was now come when I was to take my leave of lady Goodiſon, ſhe deſired they would divert me as much as they could, and then went her way, having firſt given me a freſh inſtance of her generoſity.

I SPENT the firſt week very melancholy, which was owing in a great meaſure to my benefactreſs's not coming to ſee me according to her promiſe. I thought it altogether impoſſible to taſte any diverſion in the midſt of a place which I conſidered

as

as a loathſome dungeon. I longed greatly after the recovery of my liberty, which I imagined to myſelf I had now loſt for ever. I frequently wiſhed myſelf at home with my godfather and godmother, where I did what I pleaſed; and could ſcarce think of the meadow where I uſed to amuſe myſelf, without ſhedding ſome tears. In ſhort, every thing contributed to increaſe my anxiety, while there was nothing on the other hand that compenſated for the loſs I had undergone. I harped continually upon the loſs of my liberty, which muſt always be eſteemed in proportion as its real value is known and approved.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Character of a ſchool miſtreſs and aſſiſtant. A love plot opens. Miſs in her airs.

COURTEOUS reader we are willing to indulge thee in all poſſible variety, and as thou haſt been preſented with a ſketch of character in high life, accept of a rough draught of a middling ſort of woman, of one, who tho' honoured with the appellation of madam, in the neighbourhood, is as inferior to the fine lady, as ſhe is ſuperior to the wapping hoſteſs.

MRS. Moreton, for that was the name of the ſchoolmiſtreſs of our heroine, was the widow of a lieutenant, who having had the honour of dying in the defence of his country, had likewiſe the misfortune to leave a wife and ſix miſerable children to the care of the pariſh; but

as

as ſhe was a notable woman, by which we would have underſtood, one who was never out of her way, but could improve every circumſtance, even thoſe of diſtreſs, to the greateſt poſſible advantage; ſhe ſat up a boarding ſchool, and at the time the lovely Emily was with her, had the reputation of being beforehand in the world, had paid every one their own, and maintained herſelf and family in very good credit. As to her temper it was juſt ſuch as might be expected; ſhe was inſolent, covetous, and fiery, valued herſelf greatly upon the rank her huſband bore, conſequently turned up her noſe at thoſe whoſe good fortune had not been ſo great; you low lived wretch was a term at once expreſſing her utmoſt deteſtation and abhorrence, and though it might have been retorted with the utmoſt equity upon her, ſhe being, though the wife of an officer, yet only the daugh-

daughter of an honeſt cobler; yet madam in her ſattin ſhoes was now the awe of the neighbourhood. This draught may ſuffice as an inſtance of the haughtineſs of her temper, and the vulgarity of her expreſſions. I paſs on therefore to her aſſiſtant, madamoiſelle Fontange, for that was the name which this lady choſe to go by; was the daughter of a French refugee, who after having endured much vexation himſelf, left trouble and uneaſineſs to his family, as the only legacy he could give them. She was about ſix feet two inches high, large boned and very meagre, naturally putting you in mind of the amazons of old, whom we are taught to look upon, at this diſtance of time, with as much reverence and aſtoniſhment as we behold the preſent puny race with pity and contempt; but to our lady, ſhe was continually bragging of the antiquity, nobility, &c.

of

of her family, which mrs. Moreton, who endured nothing that was not within the the ſound of Bow bell, could not think of without emotion: the contraſt between theſe two was highly ridiculous, the former, as above deſcribed, was a ſcornful widow; the latter was a ſplenetick maiden, and the words ſoup maigre, and groſſe bete were retorted upon each other, with all that ſpirit of altercation, in which the fair nymphs of Billinſgate are ſuch excellent adepts. It was to the care of madam Fontange and mrs. Moreton that our lovely Emily was intruſted.

After having been in this uneaſy ſituation, namely at ſchool, for about twelve days, lady Goodiſon came to ſee me. Upon my going to her in the parlour, ſhe found me greatly altered, and enquired of Lettice what was the reaſon of this change. As ſoon as ſhe found that it proceeded from my being tired of

of the place, ſhe very kindly comforted me; and preſented me with ſeveral new gowns, which at that time of life were matter of new joy to me. She promiſed to come to ſee me once a week for the future, and then took her leave of me, deſiring me to carry the gowns ſhe had given me into my own apartment. Lettice ſtaid with her for ſome time afterwards.

I OBSERVED, or at leaſt imagined I obſerved a good deal of affectation and conſtraint in my benefactreſs's manner of taking leave. I thought it very odd that ſhe ſhould ſend me out of the room, in order to talk with Lettice in p.ivate. I did not doubt but that ſhe wanted to ſay ſomewhat particular, but then here was the queſtion, what could this mighty ſecret be, which it was improper for me to hear? This little ſuſpicion, trifling as it may ſeem to the

the unconcerned reader, gave me a great deal of uneaſineſs. Lettice at laſt came to me without any apparent alteration. It was not till a great while after that I became acquainted with the ſubject of their converſation. The next day Lettice was enquired for by a man who ſent word that he was ſent by lady Goodiſon. This increaſed my uneaſineſs conſiderably. Lettice had been an hour with him in private, which to one ſo impatient as I was, ſeemed as long as three. At laſt I grew unable to forbear going down to them. Accordingly I went ſoftly and placed myſelf at the door. I could not indeed ſee who the perſon was, but I perceived by their diſcourſe, that he was begging ſome favour very earneſtly which Lettice peremptorily refuſed; adding, withal, that ſhe would lay the whole affair before lady Goodiſon, if he continued to torment her with any more of his extravagant demands.

In anſwer to this, ſhe was given to underſtand, that as ſhe was now miſtreſs of the ſecret, in caſe ſhe ſhould ever betray it, he would avenge himſelf in ſuch a manner as to make her repent her indiſcretion. Lettice got up very compoſedly, and told him that ſhe ſhould not be afraid of any thing while ſhe was doing her duty, and that even ſuppoſing he ſhould be baſe enough to prejudice lady Goodiſon againſt her, ſhe ſhould bear this uſage the more patiently, as ſhe ſhould not have any thing wherein ſhe could blame herſelf. She ſaid ſomething elſe, which however I could not hear, as I found ſhe was coming out, and I had but juſt time to get back to my own apartment.

I was in ſo violent an emotion, that I had not ſufficient preſence of mind to prevent its being taken notice

tice of. Lettice who was greatly ſurprized at finding me in that ſituation, enquired into the reaſon. The only anſwer I made her was by enquiring likewiſe who it was that had wanted her which ſhe refuſed to acquaint me with. I flew immediately into a paſſion, and during the courſe of the debate flung out ſome hints which ſurprized her exceedingly. Is this, madam, ſaid ſhe the manner in which you reap the benefit of a polite education? Is this the reward of all my ſervices, and can you think that this is making a proper return to lady Goodiſon for every thing ſhe has done for you? and which ought to have produced much better effects than it has hitherto done. In the humour I was in at preſent, I was not much diſpoſed to reliſh this piece of morality. I grew more and more impatient, and ſcarcely knew what I either did or ſaid: I interrupted her at length by telling

telling her that I would acquaint lady Goodiſon with her behaviour, in ſhort I did what any other young perſon, naturally inquiſitive and guided entirely by her paſſions would have done.

Lettice ſeem'd to care but little for my threats upon which I grew ſurly, for I began to ſhew all the ſeveral ill qualities of a child who has had no education, but has been ſpoiled by indulgence inſtead of being properly corrected, and who being raiſed to a condition for which ſhe did not ſeem to be intended, had put on all the airs of a perſon of diſtinction.

THE earneſt deſire I had to quit the ſchool as ſoon as poſſible, frequent reading and converſation with Lettice had contributed greatly to the improvement of my underſtanding, but had at the ſame time ſpoiled my natural diſpoſition. The little

knowledge that I had of the world was ſufficient to do me a great deal of harm. I ſoon grew tired of Lettice's company, when I found that ſhe was no longer ſubſervient to my humours. I appeared in publick therefore more frequently than before; I contracted ſome intimacies with the young ladies, whereas I had till then always behaved to them with a good deal of reſerve. I thought this was the moſt effectual way to mortify Lettice; in the mean time I was running headlong to my own deſtruction. When once we take our paſſions for our guides, we need not doubt in the leaſt, but that we are very ill conducted.

THERE was one young lady among the reſt that ſeemed to behave to me with more than ordinary civility. She was about twenty-two years of age, had been bred up in the ſchool from an infant, in order to increaſe

increaſe the revenue of a brother of hers. Her countenance was an evident token of her innocence and integrity; by degrees we contracted a great intimacy with each other. One day ſhe had, out of a jeſt, diſordered my cap, when I went to my dreſſing box to ſet it to rights, ſhe ſeemed to examine the box with great attention and was much pleaſed with the ſight of it. Notwithſtanding my frailties, ill nature was not one them, and therefore I found myſelf much pleaſed at the opportunity of making her a preſent, and accordingly gave it. This young lady had ſcarce ever any one came to ſee her, however, one morning as we were together ſhe was told that one wanted her below. In about half an hour afterwards ſhe came back; you are very well acquainted I find, ſaid ſhe, with my brother. He lives at the lady's houſe who accompanied you hither. Really miſs ſaid I, I do

not know him in particular. There is a great deal of company continually at lady Goodiſon's, pray tell me his name.

He is the perſon, replied ſhe, who gave you the dreſſing box. Do not mention him any more ſaid I, I am very ſorry he is your brother, he has done every thing he could to prejudice my benefactreſs againſt me. Your account ſurprizes me exceedingly ſaid ſhe, for I have frequently heard him ſpeak very highly in your praiſe, and tho' my acquaintance with him notwithſtanding the nearneſs of our connexion has been very ſhort, he does not ſeem by any means to be the kind of man that you repreſent him. However added ſhe be pleaſed to accept his ſincere compliments which he gave with an eagerneſs that ſhould deſtroy all your prepoſſeſſions. He ſeemed quite in tranſports when he heard that we were

were very intimate together. Things remained in this ſituation for ſome time. In about ten days after, my fair friend whom I ſhall call Lucy for the future, was enquired for at the gate. As ſoon as ſhe returned, I went to her with great eagerneſs to know if it was her brother that wanted her, ſhe told me it was, that I had been the ſole topic of their converſation, that he had defended himſelf very ſmartly from the crime I laid to his charge, and that he interceded to write to me to juſtify his behaviour, that he did not doubt in the leaſt but he ſhould give ſuch clear and convincing reaſons for what he had done, that I ſhould be thoroughly ſatisfied.

I SAW no harm as yet in this innocent intrigue, nay even on the matureſt reflection, it did not appear to me dangerous in the leaſt; for I began now to reaſon upon the incidents

that came in my way, and I conſidered this intimacy with a lady and her brother in no other light than that of a frolick. Beſides, that I was in a perpetual quarrel with Lettice, inſomuch, that I deprived myſelf of her advice, which, had it been attended to, would probably have preſerved me from moſt of my misfortunes. Thus frequently doth a headſtrong obſtinacy hurry us into dangers, to which a fond partiality towards ourſelves naturally expoſes us.

BOTH Lettice and lady Goodiſon knew nothing of mr. Bampton's having a ſiſter at the ſchool. Lettice, therefore, was far from being diſpleaſed at ſeeing me ſo intimate with a young lady of ſo modeſt an appearance. Her brother, who had laid his ſcheme very deeply, was well apprized of the advantage this intimacy would be of towards the forwarding his deſign, and therefore had taken

ken great care to conceal his having a ſiſter in the ſame ſchool that I was, and had likewiſe recommended great ſecreſy to his ſiſter.

In this interval of time lady Goodiſon came to ſee me; ſhe ſeemed highly delighted at the improvements I had made, and told me, with her uſual affability, that if I continued improving in that manner, ſhe ſhould take me home very ſoon. This promiſe you may be ſure was matter of great joy to me. Little did I foreſee that I ſhould ſoon conſider that return in the light of a moſt dreadful puniſhment, nor did I in the leaſt imagine that ſuch a period of time could come, in which I ſhould blame my benefactreſs to the full as much as I had hitherto honoured and eſteemed her.

CHAP. VIII.

The love plot thickens into a viſit, and ripens in a letter. Our heroine at a loſs for writing. This expedient ſupplied.

MR. Bampton came ſoon after to pay a viſit to his ſiſter, and gave her a letter for me, which ſhe faithfully put into my hands. I felt upon reading it, an emotion to which I had hitherto been a ſtranger. I felt within me a kind of ſenſation which induced me to endeavour not to diſpleaſe mr. Bampton; but as yet I had made no farther progreſs. I could not get to the bottom of the motive of this ſenſation. As far as I could diſcover it, it ſeemed to reſult from my eaſineſs of temper, and fearleſſneſs of all danger. The contents of the letter which I received, as abovementioned, were as follows.

Charming

Charming Emily,

"CAN you then have ſuſpected
"me of an intention to fruſ-
"trate lady Goodiſon's kind endea-
"vours to ſerve you? Why was it
"not in my power to beſtow the
"ſame care? conſider the affair cool-
"ly, and do me the juſtice I de-
"ſerve. Alas, why had you not more
"experience? you would then have
"interpreted my ſilence in a diffe-
"rent manner; however, upon ſe-
"cond thoughts, I am pleaſed with
"your artleſs ſimplicity. The very
"firſt time I ſaw you, your beauty
"devoted me to your ſervice. I felt
"unſpeakable tranſports on finding
"they had removed you to a place
"where I might have an opportuni-
"ty of declaring the ſincerity of my
"paſſion. So unforeſeen, ſo unex-
"pected a happineſs, ſuſpended for a
"while all other emotions, except-
"ing thoſe, indeed, of the tender-

" eſt affection. The firſt homage
" that I paid you was in a reſpectful
" ſilence. I would fain purſue that
" thought, but words are too weak
" to expreſs what I feel. I ſhould be
" extremely chagrined at your con-
" finement, if it did not give me an
" opportunity of throwing myſelf at
" your feet. You muſt be greatly
" on your guard, leſt Lettice ſhould
" diſcover the liberty I have taken.
" It muſt likewiſe be kept a ſecret
" from lady Goodiſon, for reaſons
" which I will acquaint you with
" hereafter. Pleaſe to compleat my
" happineſs by favouring me with a
" line; even were it to deſtroy my
" future peace for ever, its coming
" from that fair hand would be a
" ſufficient recommendation."

NOTWITHSTANDING the novelty of the ſtile, to which I had hitherto been an entire ſtranger, yet I cannot help owning that I felt a ſecret ſatisfaction

tisfaction. The truth was, that I found ſomewhat in it that flattered my partiality to myſelf. What, ſaid I to myſelf, did a lady of family and fortune as ſoon as ſhe ſaw me, long to make me fully happy, merely on account of my perſonal accompliſhments? Shall even her friends carry it ſo far as to diſpute among themſelves, who ſhall take the moſt care of me? ſurely there muſt be ſomething extraordinary, that can attract the attention and good will of ſo many different people. I ought then to love lady Goodiſon for having been my benefactreſs in reality, and mr. Bampton for his intention to take care of me in caſe I had ſtood in need of his aſſiſtance.

After this little ſoliloquy, I went to Lucy, and ſaid to her with great tranſport, I am convinced, my dear friend, that your brother is in love, but for heaven's ſake, let him take care

care how he deceives me, for even my little reading has furniſhed me with inſtances of ſeveral men, who after having perſuaded young women that they were in love with them, and reaped the fruits of that perſuaſion, have ungratefully forſaken them. Lucy was ſo aſtoniſhed at the impetuoſity and ſprightlineſs with which I had been ſpeaking, that ſhe liſtened to what I had to ſay without any interruption. As ſoon as ſhe found I had done, if my brother has given you aſſurances of his regard for you, you may depend upon it they proceed from the ſincerity of his heart. He is now at a time of life in which men grow too old for the pleaſures of youth, nay, he himſelf has gone through ſeveral trials which might convince you of his integrity; and this, were I at liberty to tell you all I know, I could undeniably prove. As to what propoſals he has made to you, I really know

know nothing about them; I ſhould be glad therefore if you would let me look at the letter, upon which I put it into her hands.

As ſoon as ſhe had read it, ſhe gave it me again, telling me at the ſame time, that what he ſaid ſeemed to be ſincere, and that ſhe ſhould think herſelf exceſſively happy to be ſo nearly related to me; that ſhe had indeed all along ſuſpected that I was a relation of lady Goodiſon's, but that this letter put it beyond all poſſibility of doubt. She perſuaded me after much intreaty, to write a line by way of anſwer. The reader may well imagine how diſagreeable a taſk this muſt have been to me, who had never wrote a letter in my life before. I had been taught to read indeed, and to write, but had never exerciſed myſelf in committing my thoughts to paper. I wrote half a dozen letters pretty much to the ſame purpoſe, which

which I tore one after the other, at laſt I determined to ſend one, whoſe contents were as follows:

SIR,

"I AM extremely glad to find that "you did not oppoſe lady "Goodiſon's kind intentions towards "me; indeed I muſt own that I "ſhould not have been ſorry in the "leaſt to have been indebted to you "for the ſame generous care. What "reaſon then can you have for con-"cealing ſuch a deſign? My bene-"factreſs is convinced at preſent, "that I am the object of your aver-"ſion, I would fain therefore unde-"ceive her; however, you may de-"pend upon it that I ſhall not take "any ſtep of that kind without your "permiſſion."

My

My fair friend conveyed this letter to her brother, who on the receipt of it, as ſhe told me, was in the higheſt raptures, ſeemed tranſported at my innocent ſimplicity, but above all things recommended ſecreſy, as the only thing that could give ſucceſs to his deſigns; that he was now ſo unhappily circumſtanced that the utmoſt precaution was abſolutely neceſſary; that lady Goodiſon for ſome time paſt, had ſhewn an extraordinary liking to him, which he had rather countenance than otherwiſe, for fear of giving her room to ſuſpect. This was the whole, ſaid Lucy, of my brother's converſation. His giving me ſo ſerious an account of the ſituation he was in, confirms me in the opinion I had before of his ſincerity. Alas, my dear friend, why may not I hear this from your brother himſelf? take me along with you the next time he comes.

In

In compliance with my requeſt ſhe promiſed that ſhe would.

LETTICE had not the leaſt ſuſpicion of what was going forwards, and indeed how could ſhe? ſhe was never privy to any of theſe converſations. I always appeared perfectly ſatisfied with my ſituation, and had lately applied to reading and writing with more aſſiduity than ever. But alas! ſhe was far from diſcovering the real motive of this extraordinary diligence. Lady Goodiſon came to ſee me in a very little while after, and was ſo pleaſed with my improvements, that ſhe grew quite laviſh in her praiſes, which, to ſay the leaſt of them, are very dangerous, and may prove fatal to young perſons if beſtowed injudiciouſly. Youth of itſelf is too ſuſceptible of vanity, and the not being blamed is oftentimes all the commendation that can be given with ſafety.

My benefactreſs enquired of Lettice whether I had contracted any intimacies with the young ladies of the place; to which ſhe was anſwered, that I had formed an acquaintance with a young lady, named miſs Lucy ———, who ſeemed to have no other fault except it were too much complacency for me. She replied that the next time ſhe came, ſhe would deſire to ſee her; I little thought at that time that this interview would produce ſuch fatal conſequences as it afterwards did.

The next day after lady Goodiſon's viſit, miſs Lucy's brother came to ſee her, and according to our agreement I accompanied her into the parlour. Mr. Bampton was ſo confounded at ſeeing me unexpectedly, that it was ſome time before he could recover himſelf ſufficiently to ſay any thing: he took hold of my hand

hand and kiſſed it with great emotion; I felt a ſatisfaction in his company, the nature of which it is impoſſible to expreſs. I would fain have ſpoke, but did not dare to venture. He aſked me ſeveral times whether he was deceived or no, or whether his ſiſter had miſinformed him, and given him too ſanguine expectations. In anſwer to this, I told him he need not doubt of the ſincerity of my affection; why then lovely Emily, ſaid he, is this confeſſion almoſt made ineffectual, by the greatneſs of your confuſion? you ſeem perfectly under conſtraint. If it only proceeds from your natural baſhfulneſs, conſider, that as my deſigns are ſtrictly honourable, you ſhould indulge me in the pleaſure of ſeeing you more compoſed.

I SIGHED very deeply upon this; Lucy told me that ſhe did not underſtand my behaviour in the leaſt; that

that I had in the morning ſeemed very deſirous of ſeeing her brother, and that I appeared quite dejected now that he was come. I took hold of her hand and preſſed it with great tenderneſs. My dear Emily, continued ſhe, be conſiſtent with yourſelf; what is the meaning of all this inconſiſtency, ? do you find yourſelf diſpoſed to think well or ill of my brother ? ſhould you be glad or ſorry to be my ſiſter in law ? alas, replied I, embracing her, that is the only thing that is wanting to compleat my happineſs. Do not preſs her any farther, ſaid her brother, her baſhfulneſs is the ſole cauſe of her preſent confuſion, ſhe will be more miſtreſs of herſelf the next time I come. I perceived he could not help ſhedding of tears when he took his leave, he told his ſiſter I was the very picture of a perſon for whom he had a very great regard, and

that

that having once ſeen me, it was impoſſible for him not to love me.

I betrayed likewiſe ſome ſigns of uneaſineſs at his departure, as ſoon as he was out of ſight I began to come to myſelf. Lucy put ſeveral queſtions to me about my ſilence; I deſired her to give me time to recollect myſelf a little, for that as yet I could not give a rational account of my behaviour; that I felt a great prepoſſeſſion in favour of her brother, but that I was utterly unable to acquaint him with it at that time; that as far as I was able to judge at preſent, it reſulted from my fears, which I was in hopes to get the better of the next time I ſaw him.

LETTICE did not know that I had been in the parlour; Lucy conducted me thither a ſecond time, in about four days after, where I behaved in the ſame manner I had done

done before. It was with the utmoſt difficulty that I brought myſelf at laſt to tell mr. Bampton that I loved him. He promiſed to pay me another viſit as ſoon as he could, which depended in a great meaſure on lady Goodiſon's motions. The ſixth day after my lover's viſit, my benefactreſs came to ſee me; you may imagine how amazed ſhe was at finding mr. Bampton there, as the footing on which they lived together gave her ſome little right over him. She aſked him very peremptorily what buſineſs he had in the ſchool; he was ſo confounded on ſeeing her, that he was unable to make any reply; and indeed had he had ever ſo much preſence of mind, he would have been unable to make any other excuſe than that of his coming to ſee his ſiſter, which as it had always been kept a ſecret from lady Goodiſon, was of itſelf ſufficient to make her very angry.

He

He was accordingly obliged to ſay who his ſiſter was, and this would ſoon occaſion another diſcovery, namely, that ſhe was the very perſon with whom I was ſo extraordinarily intimate. What room for reflection muſt this matter afford lady Goodiſon, eſpecially as ſhe had all along ſuppoſed mr. Bampton to be prejudiced againſt me. Theſe were circumſtances which could not be eaſily reconciled. He himſelf thought that this laſt prepoſſeſſion of hers would be ſufficient to excuſe him, but here lay his miſtake, lady Goodiſon was intereſted too deeply herſelf, to be ſo eaſily impoſed on.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

The whole intrigue diſcovered by a jealouſy of lady Goodiſon's. *It ends in a quarrel. And, what is perhaps much more agreeable to the reader, finiſhes the Firſt Book.*

LADY Goodiſon had obſerved for ſome time paſt, that mr. Bampton was frequently abſent upon various pretences. This had given riſe to many ſuſpicions, which notwithſtanding their chimerical foundation, had given her a deal of uneaſineſs. And mr. Bampton, notwithſtanding his being aware of this, was leſs cautious than he ſhould have been.

My benefactreſs had that very morning declared her intention of coming to ſee me, and mr. Bampton had of courſe determined to ſtay at home to do the honours of the houſe during her abſence. But lady Goodi-

ſo

ſon at dinner-time had altered her mind, and ſaid ſhe had poſtponed her viſit till the next day. As ſoon therefore as dinner was over, mr. Bampton had ordered his horſe and rode towards the ſchool. This ſtep greatly increaſed lady Goodiſon's uneaſineſs, in order therefore to diſſipate it, ſhe determined to come and ſee me. Conducted as ſhe was by an unhappy fatality, the firſt perſon ſhe met was no other than mr. Bampton who tells her he came to ſee his ſiſter which was the firſt moment that ſhe knew he had one in the place. Her name too upon enquiry ſhe finds to be Lucy. What an inſight muſt this give her into the affair, notwithſtanding the ſeveral evaſions by which mr. Bampton was in hopes of getting off; add to this that he had ſhewn himſelf very inquiſitive of late about me, which was abſolutely inconſiſtent with the antipathy which he had formerly profeſſed againſt me,

me. Theſe ſeveral ideas crouded at once into lady Goodiſon's mind. However ſhe could make nothing out clearly, all this at the moſt was but ſuſpicious, yet on the other hand it muſt be owned that they amounted to a ſtrong preſumption, as in fact it afterwards proved, for ſhe ſoon went to work, and ſucceeded but too well.

She began by telling mr. Bampton, that ſhe was exceeding angry with him for not having told her he had a ſiſter ſo near her; that ſhe deſired to be introduced to her immediately; accordingly they went up to ſee her together. While they were going, mr. Bampton deſired to ſee me on a ſimilar pretence, and by this means gave lady Goodiſon an opportunity of laying a ſnare for him, which he was wholly unaware of, and into which he fell with all the eaſe imaginable.

She told him it was impoſſible for her to comply with his requeſt; that it was her intention that I ſhould ſtay there ſome time, and that therefore it was wholly unneceſſary to call me off from my ſeveral duties; that ſhe did not deſign to ſee me herſelf, but came only to enquire of Lettice whether I was in reality ſo compoſed as ſhe had heard I was; that ſhe was apprehenſive by my behaviour at firſt that I ſhould prove very refractory; that in order to bring me to bear my ſituation with more patience, ſhe had told me that ſhe intended to take me away very ſoon, but that ſhe was much pleaſed to hear that I was ſo well reconciled to the way of living.

But ſurely, ſaid mr. Bampton, the girl would have been much happier if you had let her ſtay where ſhe was; as ſhe had never known any other condition of life, ſhe would have

have been very well pleaſed with it, and been at liberty to chooſe what ſhe thought moſt agreeable herſelf. You ſay ſhe is compoſed, but does not that compoſure proceed from her ignorance of the nature of the condition ſhe is in? the hopes ſhe has hitherto entertained of returning ſpeedily to you, has induced her as yet to bear up with chearfulneſs; but when ſhe is apprized of your real intentions, you will not perhaps find her ſo complying as you imagine; if you attempt to make uſe of any violence ſhe may complain loud enough to make it reach the people from whence you have taken her, and you may depend upon it in ſuch caſe they will make good their claim to her.

LADY Goodiſon had let mr. Bampton run on without interrupting him in the leaſt. By what he had been ſaying he had let her pret-

ty well into what ſhe wanted to find out.

THE eagerneſs with which he had ſpoke the ſeveral arguments he had made uſe of in my favour, all contributed to explain the affair to lady Goodiſon. The only point of information that was ſtill wanting, was, how far things had as yet gone between us. She was going to make him ſome anſwer to what he had been ſaying, when Lucy came in. The whole company was in too much agitation to admit of a long converſation: after having therefore courteſy'd to each other, lady Goodiſon went out and called Lettice. Nor was it without deſign that ſhe left mr. Bampton and his ſiſter together. She wanted him to give her an account of every thing that had happened, that it might come to my ears, and then ſhe ſhould be able to judge from my behaviour, of the nature

of

of our correſpondence. She was willing too at the ſame time, to get all the intelligence that ſhe could from Lettice; and began by aſking her, whether I ſtill continued intimate with miſs Lucy. Lettice replied that I grew every day more and more ſo; that ſhe was far from being diſpleaſed thereat, becauſe ever ſince I had contracted that acquaintance, I had made very conſiderable improvements.

My benefactreſs then aſked her if I ever went into the parlour with Lucy. Lettice, who was never privy to my having done it, replied that it was impoſſible I could have done it, becauſe ſhe had never ſtirred from me. This quieted lady Goodiſon a little, however, ſhe was determined to leave no ſtone unturned to diſcover the whole affair. From this period of time, the reader will find that lady Goodiſon will make a very different

figure in theſe little memoirs, from what ſhe has hitherto done. He will ſee that paſſion got entirely the better of her, and inſtead of her continuing to appear full of every good quality, behold her treacherous, diſſembling, revengeful.

SHE told Lettice the diſcovery ſhe had juſt made, with reſpect to miſs Lucy, and acquainted her with the ſtratagem that ſhe intended to put in practice, together with the artifice ſhe had already uſed to get ſome light into the affair, deſiring her withal, to be continually upon her guard, and to let no incident paſs by unobſerved. Lettice did not doubt in the leaſt, but that mr. Bampton had ſucceeded by means of his ſiſter's application, and had obtained through her, what ſhe had refuſed to take upon herſelf; for mr. Bampton was the perſon who wanted Lettice in the parlour, on the day that I liſtened

tened to hear what they were ſaying. He was willing to ſound her, before he entruſted her with the ſecret of his having a ſiſter in that place. Upon Lettice's refuſing to be concerned, he had recourſe to his only reſource, and by this means ſhe was wholly ignorant of his having any ſiſter. Lettice might indeed have informed lady Goodiſon of mr. Bampton's application, but ſhe prudently forbore it.

AFTER my benefactreſs had taken theſe ſeveral precautions, ſhe went away, without deſiring to ſee me. The affair turned out exactly as ſhe foreſaw it would. Mr. Bampton informed his ſiſter of lady Goodiſon's intentions to keep me in the ſchool for ever, and deſired her to give her advice what was proper to be done. Lucy ſuſpected that ſhe might have ſome private reaſons for talking in the manner ſhe did, and therefore

thought it moſt adviſeable to conceal from me what had happened. As Lucy was quite free from paſſion or prejudice, ſhe ſaw much deeper into the affair than her brother, whoſe underſtanding was conſiderably clouded by his apprehenſions. He refuſed to conform to his ſiſter's ſober advice, and told her it was not only neceſſary that I ſhould be acquainted with the whole, but that ſhe ought to ſpirit me up to oppoſe lady Goodiſon, and that in the doing this there was no time to be loſt; in ſhort, he did not leave his ſiſter, till he had made her promiſe to do as he deſired.

She went immediately in queſt of me, and took me into the garden, where ſhe gave me an account of the ſeveral circumſtances of the affair. It is impoſſible to expreſs what I felt upon this occaſion; it was a mixture of the ſeveral pangs which

are the never-failing attendants of unſucceſsful love. I forgot at that inſtant the ſeveral favours I had received from my benefactreſs, and viewed her only in the light of a paſſionate and revengeful woman. I felt that I had a right to preſerve my own liberty, in ſpite of her continual endeavours to deſtroy it; and that in ſhort, I was determined to fruſtrate her attempts. Lucy, who was an abſolute ſtranger to theſe ſeveral emotions by which I was in a manner diſtracted, was terribly afraid that my behaviour would be taken notice of by ſome of the boarders, who were walking at a little diſtance from us. She was ſenſible of the neceſſity there was of my concealing my knowledge of the affair from Lettice. She was now likewiſe convinced of my attachment to her brother, and ſo was I too at that time; but afterwards, upon examination, I found that it was rather the reſult of

thought it moſt adviſeable to conceal from me what had happened. As Lucy was quite free from paſſion or prejudice, ſhe ſaw much deeper into the affair than her brother, whoſe underſtanding was conſiderably clouded by his apprehenſions. He refuſed to conform to his ſiſter's ſober advice, and told her it was not only neceſſary that I ſhould be acquainted with the whole, but that ſhe ought to ſpirit me up to oppoſe lady Goodiſon, and that in the doing this there was no time to be loſt; in ſhort, he did not leave his ſiſter, till he had made her promiſe to do as he deſired.

She went immediately in queſt of me, and took me into the garden, where ſhe gave me an account of the ſeveral circumſtances of the affair. It is impoſſible to expreſs what I felt upon this occaſion; it was a mixture of the ſeveral pangs which

are the never-failing attendants of unſucceſsful love. I forgot at that inſtant the ſeveral favours I had received from my benefactreſs, and viewed her only in the light of a paſſionate and revengeful woman. I felt that I had a right to preſerve my own liberty, in ſpite of her continual endeavours to deſtroy it; and that in ſhort, I was determined to fruſtrate her attempts. Lucy, who was an abſolute ſtranger to theſe ſeveral emotions by which I was in a manner diſtracted, was terribly afraid that my behaviour would be taken notice of by ſome of the boarders, who were walking at a little diſtance from us. She was ſenſible of the neceſſity there was of my concealing my knowledge of the affair from Lettice. She was now likewiſe convinced of my attachment to her brother, and ſo was I too at that time; but afterwards, upon examination, I found that it was rather the reſult of

ſelf defence, and an exertion in behalf of the liberty I had a right to, than any particular regard for him. Lucy endeavoured to quiet me by all the methods ſhe could think of, but it was all to no purpoſe; for inſtead of ſoothing my anxiety, ſhe rather increaſed my deſpair.

It is high time, my dear, ſaid I, to ſhew them that all their attempts to tyrannize over me will be ineffectual, for I can truly ſay, that I have no dependance upon lady Goodiſon, and ſhould have lived very happily, had ſhe let me remain in the ſituation I was in. My pleaſures, indeed, were none of the moſt refined, but then I was leſs expoſed to cruel diſappointments. Oh, had I but foreſeen them---- She has dragged me out of a way of life, in which I lived very contentedly, to make me fall a ſacrifice to her capricious humours. All the while I was ſaying this, my tears

tears flowed apace. Did I go out, continuing my diſcourſe, in queſt of mr. Bampton? Is it my fault that he fell in love with me? Am I at lady Goodiſon's abſolute diſpoſal? Does ſhe think that my godmother will come into all her whims? She will be much amazed when ſhe hears that all the lady's fine promiſes have ended at laſt in ſhutting me up for life. In ſhort, Lucy, if your brother is as much in love with me in reality, as he pretends to be, he muſt go to my godmother, and acquaint her with lady Goodiſon's intentions, and this is the only method that I can think of, as being likely to ſnatch me from her tyranny.

As ſoon as Lucy found that I had ſaid all I wanted, ſhe began to preſs her advice more ſtrongly, and to endeavour to bring me to hear reaſon if poſſible. She told me, that it was abſolutely neceſſary, at my time of life,

life, to uſe ſome little diſſimulation in order to be more at my liberty hereafter; that by having recourſe to violent methods, at once I ſhould lay myſelf and mr. Bampton open the effects of her indigation; that I was as yet too young to leave the ſchool, and by that time I was of a proper age, ſome alteration or other might be produced.

I WAS at length convinced of the force of theſe arguments, and was brought to acknowledge that ſome Diſſimulation was neceſſary; however notwithſtanding Lucy's advice, and my utmoſt endeavours, I could not wholly conceal my concern from the obſervations of the diſcerning Lettice, who you may be ſure was to give lady Goodiſon due notice of it, as being one great part of the ſucceſs of her ſcheme.

LADY

LADY Goodiſon conſidered me from that time forward in the odious light of a rival; She diſſembled however a good deal, both with reſpect to mr. Bampton and myſelf, in order to make her vengeance the more ſecure. The time was now approaching in which he was obliged to go to his regiment, and that was the time ſhe had allotted for my experiencing the effects of her reſentment. It may perhaps be aſked why in the firſt tranſports of her paſſion ſhe did not ſend me home to my godmother again, as it was natural ſhe ſhould? to which it may be anſwered, that ſhe could not well ſend me back again without ſome plauſible excuſe; it is true, indeed, that I myſelf conſidered ſingly was a perſon of little conſequence, but then lady Goodiſon it muſt be remembred had made me of conſequence, and that too in the preſence

of

of a number of people, to whom ſhe was in ſome meaſure anſwerable for her behaviour towards me; and what was the mighty matter that ſhe could have laid to my charge? why truely, that I was beloved by a man, who, ſhe had flattered herſelf, had been pre-engaged to her. Was it likely that ſhe herſelf ſhould give ſuch a reaſon, which neceſſarily accuſed herſelf of indiſcretion? that portion of partiality which every individual feels for himſelf, is oftentimes a neceſſary curb, and prevents men from expoſing themſelves to the contempt of the public.

I DOUBT not but lady Goodiſon was prevented by this unfortunate piece of prudence from ſending me home to my godmother. She let me ſtay at the ſchool very quietly, nor was I at all more conſtrained than I had been before. This piece of behaviour moſt effectually blinded us,

us, we imagined that ſhe thought we might act in concert to our prejudice, that ſhe had endeavoured to come to a certainty in that matter, but having failed in her undertaking, that her ſuſpicions were now entirely diſſipated.

CONFIDENT of this being the true ſtate of the caſe, mr. Bampton and I continued our correſpodence in the ſame manner as we had done before the incident happened; however the more frequent our interviews were, the more I grew upon the reſerve. I loved him indeed, and he plainly perceived that I did, but then it was not in the degree which he ſeemed to wiſh it; the nature of my affection diſcovered itſelf more and more every day.

WHENEVER I but thought of loſing him, I was almoſt tortured to diſtraction, but my utmoſt deſires reached

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reached only to the being glad to ſee him, ſometimes to the being near him, and being aſſured that I ſhould never be at a greater diſtance. When he came to take his leave of me, it put my affection to the moſt violent proof; I was almoſt drowned in tears, I took hold of his hands and preſſed them, but was unable to ſpeak. I made not the leaſt heſitation at beſtowing innocent careſſes, but when he once came to propoſe my binding myſelf by an oath to remain faithful for ever, I let go his hands; I fixed my eyes, which had hitherto beheld him with the utmoſt tenderneſs, down upon the ground, and my heart refuſed him that requeſt which he ſeemed to require at my hands.

Mr. Bampton now perceived that to perſiſt in a deſire at preſent, which he found to be ſo diſagreeable to me, would be troubling his own

own happineſs, and therefore put on an air of more reſerve, which inſtantly brought me to, and we parted when we had given repeated promiſes of ſeeing each other often. My concern for his departure was ſo great, that I could not conceal it from lady Goodiſon, which cleared up the affair to her at once, I vented my grief to Lucy in private, and in her friendſhip found all the comfort I could expect.

The End of the Firſt BOOK.

MEMOIRS

MEMOIRS
OF A
YOUNG LADY.

BOOK II.

CHAP. I.

A bone for the criticks.

AS every author ſets out with a tolerable opinion of his own underſtanding, and if we may judge by the length and dulneſs of moſt productions, with as firm a perſuaſion of the patience of his readers, ſuch a defiance

as we have prefixed to the title of our chapter, is neither indecent or improper: conſidering more eſpecially that this is purpoſely intended for thoſe who uſurp to themſelves the privelege of judgment, that is, in other words, of condemning without mercy; a more than ordinary degree of boldneſs ſeems abſolutely requiſite. Be it known, therefore, to all gentlemen wits, templars, actors, &c. &c. from thoſe who declaim in the pit, to thoſe who foam at the Robin Hood, that we abſolutely exclude all ſuch terms as may in any wiſe tend to diſparage or undervalue this our notable performance; as for inſtance, no buſineſs, damned ſtuff, &c. &c. &c. Whenever a new performance is uſhered into the publick, the different claſſes of criticks are for a while in conſternation, and for a time, at leaſt, are pleaſed to ſuſpend the ſentence.

WHILE the one ſort are very deſirous of knowing the publiſher, that that they may not diſoblige their great benefactors, who for ought appears to the contrary, have hired their applauſes, or ſoftened their indignation: another is anxiouſly waiting for the opinion of his patron, and a third in expectation of the deciſion of the reviews. When an author has in a manner run the gauntlet of theſe ſeveral tribunals, no wonder if he ſhould repent his haſty publication, though he might in my opinon, with ſome propriety, aſk the Zoili, who made ye judges and rulers over me? But ſhould performances of this kind haply find an admittance, or rather intrude unawares on the cloſet of the ſtudent, who with no little ſolemnity profeſſes himſelf formed upon the plan of the ancients; I can eaſily conjecture the opinion he will bring forth, let the

the work be ever ſo ingeniouſly executed, and the incident that compoſe it be ever ſo intereſting; the word modern is pronounced with ſovereign contempt, and he in the very ſame breath damns my performance, and launches into a dry elogium on the SIMPLICITY of the ancients. Peace to all ſuch, ſince I can never hope to gain their good word in this century, and we ſhall both of us very probably be forgotten in the next.

CHAP. II.

A ſad reverſe of fortune, in which our heroine's conſtancy is put to the trial. An inſtance of the ſhrewdneſs of female cunning, and of the ſeverity of its reſentment.

ABOUT ten days after mr. Bampton's departure, lady Goodiſon ſent for me; Lettice found me in miſs

miſs Lucy's room, whence indeed I ſeldom ſtirred, more eſpecially, as ſhe had been out of order two or three days. Lettice did not apprize me of the orders ſhe had received, till after I was come out of the apartment, a piece of behaviour probably owing to lady Goodiſon's inſtructions; for when I would fain have taken leave of miſs Lucy, Lettice immediately oppoſed it, on pretence that we had no time to loſe, but that when I came to lady Goodiſon's, I ſhould write her an apology for going away ſo abruptly.

As ſoon as I got thither, the firſt perſons that I ſaw were my godfather and godmother. I was extremely ſurprized, you may imagine, to find them there, on my return from a place from whence I had been taken like a criminal, without ſpeaking to any one. As ſoon as I was a little come to myſelf, I immediately concluded

concluded I was to go home with them, and accordingly threw myſelf into their arms with an emotion which affected them greatly.

THE good people naturally enough attributed what I had done to my gratitude for the care they had taken of me in my infancy; but could they have ſeen into my intentions, they would ſoon have percieved that I did it in order to revive their compaſſion, and awaken that tenderneſs which I had formerly experienced.

WHEN perſons are in ſuch circumſtances as I have been deſcribing, their very geſtures, tho' dumb, yet are very ſignificant interpreters of their ſentiments; of the nature of which we ourſelves are for a time wholly ignorant, inſomuch that they act for ſome time without our participation in the leaſt.

I WAS utterly unable to ſay any thing at all; we went into lady Goodiſon's apartment where thro' an emotion pretty nearly of the ſame kind with the former, I threw myſelf at her feet; ſhe received me with an air which had a mixture in it of tenderneſs and indifference. I hope Emily, ſaid ſhe, your gratitude and ſubmiſſion are equally ſincere. I ſhall ſoon put both to a trial, I can aſſure you. Remember that you are entirely at my diſpoſal, and as I ſhall do nothing but what I think is for your advantage, ſo altho' the means may appear to be rather ſevere, yet the end will be good. Here are (continued ſhe, pointing to my godfather and godmother) the perſons who have brought you up, who have delivered to me all the right they have over you, and indeed the only right they ever had, aroſe from the compaſſion they felt for your unfortunate condition.

I OBSERVED during this diſcourſe that my godmother bluſhed a good deal, and that the tears ran down her cheeks. The low light in which I now appeared was undoubtedly the cauſe of her extraordinary emotion.

LADY Goodiſon now appeared to me as a quite different kind of woman from what I had always hitherto thought her. The reader I hope will excuſe my free confeſſion, but ſhe ſeemed abſolutely deteſtable; I conſidered her pretty much in the ſame light that ſhe did me, with this difference however, that I depended entirely upon her, and conſequently that it was in her power to make me as miſerable as her malice could ſuggeſt, and my tears were the only weapons which I had left me to ſet in oppoſition to her indignation.

PRAY

PRAY who would have married you, continued ſhe, in the ſituation you then was. In all probability you would never have been truly happy. But perhaps your pride is too great to ſubmit; but I am now going to place you in a way of life, to which I am perſuaded you cannot have the leaſt objection. Believe me, the placing you out is not a matter of ſuch ſmall importance as you imagine. All that I require in return for my care, is an abſolute obedience to that method which I ſhall point out to you as the propereſt to purſue.

I AM going to London next week, where I ſhall marry you ſo advantageouſly, that I dare ſay I need not remind you of your being entirely at my diſpoſal, to induce you to conſent to it. Your own intereſt will ſurely dictate obedience to you in this caſe. She concluded by deſiring

me to take my leave of my godfather and godmother, as it was the laſt time I ſhould ſee them before their departure, which was fixed for the next day.

I HAD hitherto entertained a ſecret hope, that I ſhould have an opportunity of diſcourſing with them in private, and by that means have vented what I had to ſay to them concerning the methods of lady Goodiſon's behaviour; but all this hope, which was my only reſource, was by this means cut off. I embraced them very cordially, without being able to utter a ſingle ſyllable. They went out immediately, affected, no doubt, with ſo melancholy a ſcene, but they little thought that there were other reaſons for my affliction, beſides the being placed in ſo contemptible a light.

I AM now come to that period of my life, in which, as I ſaid before, I conſidered lady Goodiſon no longer as my benefactreſs. I conſidered only the injuſtice ſhe had been guilty of, and the abuſe ſhe had made of my godfather and godmother's confidence; the end of all which was to obtain an unlimited authority over me.

As ſoon as ever my godfather and godmother were gone out, ſhe told me that ſhe did not underſtand what I meant by crying, and that ſhe inſiſted on my wiping away my tears, and then gave orders to Lettice, to lead me to my apartment. I was extremely glad to find ſhe had done ſpeaking, in order that I might enjoy the opportunity ſhe gave me of being by myſelf; more eſpecially as I conſidered her abſence as one of the greateſt favours ſhe could beſtow. My concern greatly exceeded the

ſtrength I had to bear it, inſomuch, that I ſtood in great need of a little privacy, where I might give vent to my grief, and conſequently eaſe myſelf, in ſome meaſure, of the load that oppreſſed me.

LETTICE, in purſuance of her miſtreſs's orders, conducted me to my chamber, and ſeemed greatly affected at the ſituation I was in: nor is it at all ſurpriſing, that I obſerved it, people under misfortunes being remarkably quick-ſighted, either in diſcovering who ſooth, or who contribute to the increaſe of their trouble. As we were going out of the room, Lettice was obliged to give way to ſome of the ſervants who were coming to lay the cloth, and unfortunately her gown hitch'd ſome how, which ſhe endeavouring to undo, ſwept down a china jar, which was ſtanding juſt by, and broke it all to pieces. Lady Goodiſon,

ſon who was already ſufficiently chagrined, ſcolded Lettice a good deal. Paſſion whenever indulged, let the cauſe of it be ever ſo ſeemingly equitable, I ſay ſeemingly becauſe it can never be ſo in reality, always debaſes the dignity of the perſon; a perſon in ſuch caſes is deficient in point of reſpect to himſelf, and then it is no wonder that others follow his example. Lettice was an inſtance of the truth of what I have been aſſerting, for as ſoon as her miſtreſs began to fly out, ſhe anſwered her again with very little ceremony.

This little ſcene of altercation afforded a little relief to my concern. I could not help feeling in Lettice's behalf, more eſpecially when I conſidered her as falling a ſacrifice to lady Goodiſon's averſion to me, nor was my kindneſs thrown entirely away; I found her very

grateful, but then it was at her miſtreſs's expence; perhaps indeed what I am now attributing to gratitude, was only the effect of malice. It is a very dangerous thing to put the patience of confidants to the trial; their vanity muſt be indulged or bore with at the leaſt, ſince when it is once diſappointed it will ſoon ſeek for revenge. This was what happened exactly in the preſent inſtance; Lettice thought herſelf at liberty to tell publickly what lady Goodiſon ſeemed to care ſo little ſhould be concealed, if ſhe might judge from her behaviour

ACCORDINGLY ſhe gave me an account of her lady's ſeveral ſlips, many of which I had before been acquainted with; nor was this the only piece of intelligence, ſhe likewiſe informed me of the ſeveral ſteps that ſhe intended to take againſt me, in order to puniſh me for

for having out-rivalled her in Mr. Bampton's eſteem, and then gave me an account of what had happened at the ſchool, which, as the reader is already acquainted with, it would be needleſs to repeat.

In a caſe where my own intereſt was ſo eſſentially concerned, I was entirely blinded to Lettice's indiſcretion, I never gave myſelf leave to reflect that notwithſtanding lady Goodiſon's behaviour, ſhe had nevertheleſs an undoubted right to require ſecrecy of Lettice. I only conſidered at that time the advantage that would accrue to myſelf, from this information, and conſequently Lettice appeared in as amiable a light, as I had hitherto viewed her in a diſagreeable one. Thus are we continually made the ſport of our paſſions, and people become odious or otherwiſe to us, in proportion as they indulge or croſs our inclinations.

I EMBRACED Lettice very cordially, and did not doubt in my own mind, but that lady Goodiſon would find me as compoſed the next morning as ſhe had ordered me to be. I had only time as yet, to wonder, and to be moved with compaſſion, when a footman came with a meſſage from lady Goodiſon, to deſire me to ſup with her. Lettice whiſpered me as I was going out, that ſhe deſired I would not mention a ſyllable of what ſhe had been telling me; ſhe is afraid, continued ſhe, that I ſhould ſay any thing to hurt her, little thinking that it is all over, and that the thing is paſt apprehenſion. I found lady Goodiſon reading when I went into the room, but this I ſoon diſcovered was rather for form's ſake, than any thing elſe. I ſtood for ſome conſiderable time before ſhe perceived me, nay, ſhe went ſo far, as to ſit down to table without recollecting

lecting that ſhe had invited me to ſupper, at laſt, however, lifting up her eyes to call for ſomewhat to drink, oh, there you are, ſaid ſhe, why do not you ſit down? have you been here any time? was Lettice with you? does ſhe ſeem aſhamed of the impertinence ſhe has been guilty of?

ALL theſe ſeveral queſtions ſhe put to me in a breath. I told her, that I had not had time to ſpeak to Lettice, becauſe her meſſage came to me juſt as I was getting into my apartment, lady Goodiſon eat but very little ſupper, and complained of a great diſorder in her head, which ſhe ſaid obliged her to go to bed immediately. She ordered a tent bed to be put up in her room for me to lay upon, that I might be near her in caſe of any accident.

I PERCEIVED very plainly the true reaſon of all this, ſhe was perſuaded, in her own mind, that ſhe had taken due precaution, but herein ſhe was deceived; for Lettice's malice had outſtripped her utmoſt vigilance. Lettice's mother waited upon her that evening, and endeavoured, in the mean time, to reſtore her daughter to favour. Lady Goodiſon, made anſwer, that ſhe ſhould ſee how matters would turn out, ſhe rang her bell about day break, and was anſwered by Lettice, to whom ſhe did not ſay a ſyllable. I did not ſtay till ſhe bid me get up, but dreſſed myſelf immediately. As ſoon as lady Goodiſon was up, ſhe went into her cloſet, followed by Lettice, and told me, at the ſame time, to go into my room. I pretended to go out, but my curioſity ſoon induced me to return very ſoftly, I did not doubt in my own mind, but that I ſhould be the ſubject

ject of their converſation and my ſuſpicions proved but too true.

CHAP. III.

A marriage projected. A ſecret correſpondence. A new lover appears. The natural effects, a jealouſy and ſecret inclination to one, but unwillingneſs to part with the other. An explanation.

LADY Goodiſon after ſome little altercation with Lettice, forgave her, as ſhe ſaid, in conſideration of her mother, hoping at the ſame time, that ſhe had not been ſo indiſcreet as to ſay any thing to me which ſhe ought to have concealed. As ſoon as Lettice had aſſured her that ſhe was incapable of ſo much baſeneſs, my late benefactreſs ſealed as it were, her pardon, by a freſh piece of confidence, and by entruſting her with the reaſons of her taking me to Lon-

London; namely, that I might never ſee mr. Bampton any more. She added that ſhe intended to ſettle me immediately; that ſhe was very ſorry ſhe had engaged ſo deeply in my behalf, but that as ſhe had, ſhe was determined to get out of the ſcrape as well as ſhe could. Lettice aſked her upon this, whether ſhe intended to get me a huſband? in anſwer to which ſhe was told that was her intention, which if I preſumed to oppoſe, I ſhould be diſcarded from her for ever.

Some little ſtir that I heard in the cloſet at that time, made me imagine that they were coming out, upon which I ran away as faſt as I could, and getting with difficulty into my apartment, threw myſelf on the bed. I was taken immediately with ſo violent a heart-burn, that I did not get rid of it till ſome time after I had been at London. As ſoon

ſoon as every thing had been agreed on between the miſtreſs and the maid, Lettice came out in queſt of me, and was greatly alarmed at the ſituation in which ſhe found me. In ſhort, ſhe imagined that I was going to die, having previouſly therefore given me a cordial to cheer up my ſpirits, ſhe endeavoured to quiet and ſooth me by her diſcourſe. She told me that I might hope great things from her reconciliation with lady Goodiſon; that indeed her only view in the deſiring it, was that ſhe might be of the greater ſervice to me; that it would be very eaſy to render all her ſchemes ineffectual; that her miſtreſs's behaviour the night before, was an ample juſtification of hers at preſent, and concluded by promiſing that as ſoon as we got to London, ſhe would find out ſome means for me to correſpond with mr. Bampton.

THIS laſt conſideration awakened all my tenderneſs afreſh, for indeed I muſt own that for ſome time paſt, I had ſcarce thought about him. I now longed to ſee him, and conſidered him in my own mind as a kind of remedy for my affliction. As ſoon as I was ſufficiently recovered to appear before lady Goodiſon, I went down ſtairs, from whence we all three got immediately into the coach, for the reſt of the company had left the houſe ſome time before. My benefactreſs ſeemed to be a good deal out of ſpirits, ſhe ſcarce ſpoke three words during the whole time of the journey, but wiped her eyes now and then, from which the tears flowed, in ſpite of her endeavours to the contrary. I found myſelf extremely affected with her melancholy ſituation. I reflected for ſome time on both our conditions, and could not help thinking that ſhe was as much to blame as I. I lifted up my eyes

eyes juſt as I was thinking this, and ſurprized her looking at me with an air of great compaſſion. This interval of tenderneſs however was but ſhort, and turned into hatred as ſoon as I recollected the ſeveral injuries ſhe had done, and thoſe which ſhe was even now preparing to offer.

I WONDER'D however, at times, at the ſurprizing alteration which had taken place. Love had certainly diſordered her ſenſes in ſuch a manner, that ſhe ſcarce knew what ſhe did. Her ſituation was truly deplorable indeed! it was a mixture of goodneſs and bitterneſs, and in ſhort, of all kinds of emotions, which deſtroyed each other. As ſoon as ſhe got to London ſhe went to bed immediately, and deſired me to ſtay with her, I will not ſay till ſhe found herſelf ſleepy, but till ſhe found herſelf unable to talk any longer. She had

had ſet before my eyes a lively repreſentation of real miſery. She muſt have ſpent a moſt woful night, I am ſure. As to myſelf, I went and unboſomed myſelf to Lettice, ſo that if I ſlept no better than my benefactreſs, yet I had the advantage of her in having given vent to my grief.

LETTICE and I concerted ſome meaſures together, to write to miſs Lucy, in order to hear what was become of mr. Bampton. The day-light broke in upon us before we got a wink of ſleep. As ſoon as I was up, I wrote a letter to miſs Lucy in which I inſerted many tender expreſſions concerning her brother. Theſe expreſſions ſlipped from me in a manner without my being aware of them; I felt indeed every thing that I had ſaid, but it was without any extraordinary emotion. Lettice took upon herſelf the care of getting

getting it conveyed, and wrote the directions herſelf, that it might not be known by the people of the houſe.

LADY Goodiſon employed the whole morning in ſending word to her acquaintance that ſhe was come to town, and the reſt of the day was taken up in the neceſſary preparations for the reception of viſitants on the enſuing day. I was confined to my room pretty much, ſo that I never ſaw her except at meal times, when ſhe uſed to ſpeak to me ſometimes, but without any connexion, and this diſorderly diſcourſe, was generally accompanied by a very deep ſigh, or ſome extraordinary emotion. The very ſight of me, I dare ſay, added a poignancy to her grief, for in a very few days, ſhe deſired I would dine up ſtairs in my room.

I HAD lived about a fortnight in this way, when a freſh accident happened to diſcompoſe it. Lettice received a letter for me, and gave it me; I read it and put it into my pocket. One morning as I was coming from lady Goodiſon, this letter unfortunately dropped out without my perceiving it. As ſoon as I got to my room, it came into my mind to read this letter over again; you may judge of my concern when I could not find it. I waited for Lettice with impatience, to adviſe with her what was to be done; but as ſoon as I ſaw her, ſhe gave me quickly to underſtand that the whole had been diſcovered. Lettice had aſſured her miſtreſs, that ſhe could not poſſibly tell by what means this letter could have been delivered. In ſhort, ſaid ſhe, get off as well as you can; I am afraid this affair will diſconcert you a little, but you may think your-

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ſelf very lucky that I was not ſuſpected.

THERE was nothing I dreaded ſo much as ſeeing lady Goodiſon. Lettice aſſured me that I had not the leaſt reaſon to be afraid; that ſhe would only for the future have me conſtantly with her. Accordingly, the next day ſhe ſent for me into her apartment. I went in with as much aſſurance as I could poſſibly muſter together; but notwithſtanding my utmoſt endeavours I looked exceeding guilty. Lady Goodiſon did not ſeem to take the leaſt notice of my looks, but told me, that as ſhe intended to get me married very ſoon, it was proper that I ſhould know a little of the world. From this time I was continually in company with lady Goodiſon; Lettice herſelf could not find any opportunity to ſpeak with me; I laid in the ſame room with my benefactreſs, eat and viſited con-

conſtantly with her, and ſhe deprived herſelf of all amuſements of which I could not partake.

THIS ſituation was equally diſagreeable to her and to me. It was natural enough therefore for me to deſire to put an end to it, and for her to endeavour that it ſhould be ſo very ſoon. Lettice found means however to give me a letter from mr. Bampton. The reader may eaſily imagine with what ſatisfaction I received it. I was extremely chagrined to find myſelf removed at ſuch a diſtance from him, yet I ſoon grew compoſed thro' a ſecret hope that I ſhould ſhortly ſee him. The ſentiment which influenced me, was of a very ſingular nature, but I have already ſpoken of it at large; let it be ſufficient to obſerve here, that though it reſembled the paſſion of love in ſome particular inſtances, yet it was by no means properly to be

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ſtiled love. The ſequel of my ſtory will plainly inform the reader concerning the nature of my inclination, to the clearing up of which lady Goodiſon's cruel behaviour did not a little contribute. Among the gay young people who uſed to reſort to her houſe, I paid a particular regard to the marquis of D———. He was young and handſome, ſenſible and lively. As to his natural temper, as far as I could make any obſervations it was impetuous, not eaſily diſcouraged from what he had undertaken, even by the moſt alarming difficulties; his ſpirit was quite regardleſs of danger. People of his character, pay frequently very dear for their ardour and indiſcretion. His misfortunes, (ſo alas! it was deſtin'd) were to terminate by his falling in love with me. From being accuſtomed to ſee him very frequently, I began to miſs him when abſent. His preſence uſed generally to compoſe

poſe my troubled ſpirits, inſomuch that I ſcarce ever partook of any ſatisfaction without him. Although he was far from being an intimate friend of my benefactreſs's, yet ſhe grew conſtantly uneaſy whenever he miſſed ſeeing her for two or three days, but this uneaſineſs was diſſipated the moment he made his appearance. The more ſtrongly I was prepoſſeſſed in favour of the marquis, the leſs inclination I felt towards mr. Barnpton; I would fain indeed have kept upon terms with him, but I was afraid that would be impoſſible. I determined to conceal from him the new engagement my heart had entered into, till I had got him to do what I then ſtood in need of. Lettice was continually teazing me in his behalf, but I now began to avoid her with as much caution as I had heretofore ſought her with earneſtneſs. The marquis was ever with me, I could not help putting

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frequently mr. Bampton in the ſcale, but I conſtantly found it was to the diſadvantage of the latter. I diſcovered, or at leaſt I imagined I diſcovered a great ſimilitude in our natural diſpoſitions, and methods of thinking. I frequently ſaid to myſelf, that nothing was wanting to complete my happineſs, but ſuch a huſband as the marquis, and ſuch a friend as mr. Bampton. Nay I flattered myſelf that lady Goodiſon would not oppoſe my inclinations, when once ſhe came to know that I had given up the latter.

I WENT even ſo far as to juſtify her conduct, excuſing her on account of the bitterneſs of jealouſy itſelf, more eſpecially when ſhe herſelf had in a manner made me her rival, as ſhe had given me the opportunity of being ſo. The only impediment that I met with in my preſent ſtate of tranquillity, was the continual fro-

ward behaviour of my benefactreſs, I laid hold of every opportunity that I had to convince her that ſhe was as much in the wrong as I was, and conſequently, that ſhe was highly to blame in ſeeking to vex me any farther. The having it in my power to ſee my lover often, had ſpread ſuch an air of ſatisfaction over my countenance and behaviour, as ought to have convinced her, that I had given over all thoughts of mr. Bampton; but ſo very ingenious was ſhe in tormenting herſelf, that ſhe conſtrued my compoſure into a high affront, and imagined that it proceeded from my thinking myſelf quite ſure of mr. Bampton, and being in no manner of fear of his inconſtancy.

LETTICE, who was much more ſharp-ſighted than her miſtreſs, perceived how matters ſtood; ſhe imagined that I had been diſcouraged by the

the number of difficulties that lay in the way to our correſpondence, and had therefore given over ſo dangerous and unpromiſing a purſuit. Theſe ſuſpicions ſhe very freely communicated to Mr. Bampton; he was exceſſively chagrined as ſoon as he heard it, however, as he could not bring himſelf to think that I favoured as yet any one elſe's pretenſions, he was in hopes that his preſence and aſſiduity would rekindle a paſſion which had abated as he thought on account of his abſence. He had perceived ſomewhat in my method of thinking ſo entirely different from that of other women, that he imagined I was quite free from their frailties and imperfections; and it was upon this account that he longed for the end of the campaign with the utmoſt impatience.

NOTWITHSTANDING the ſeveral private objections which lady Goodi-

ſon had to his coming to her houſe, yet ſhe could not well refuſe him, inaſmuch as ſuch refuſal would have exaſperated their common friends, and their connexion was too well known to admit of her denying him. I was ſitting in the room with my benefactreſs when he came in, neither of us having had any previous notice of his arrival. I was quite thunderſtruck as ſoon as I heard his name pronounced, and would willingly, had it been poſſible, have ſunk into a ſtate of utter annihilation to have avoided him. An univerſal tremor immediately ſeized hold of me. Lady Goodiſon, who on this occaſion was thoroughly on her guard, ſoon perceived my emotion, and attributed it all to the force of that love which ſhe imagined I ſtill retain'd for him. I beheld at one view the indignation which appeared in lady Goodiſon's countenance, and the exceſſive ſatisfaction which mr. Bamp-

ton betrayed. His viſit was exceſſively ſhort, lady Goodiſon pretended that ſhe had an engagement upon her hands in order to make it the ſhorter, little thinking at the ſame time how greatly ſhe was obliging me. As ſoon as he was gone out of the room I recovered myſelf quickly and yet there remained an air of great melancholy on account of what had happened.

THE truth was, that this ſight of mr. Bampton had furniſhed me with freſh reflections, I was afraid of acting in purſuance of my inclinations, not knowing the lengths to which his deſpair might carry him. I reproached myſelf a good deal for depriving him of that tranquillity which he had enjoyed before ever he knew me. I accuſed myſelf as the cauſe of the rupture between lady Goodiſon and him, although I neither reap-

ed, nor intended to reap any benefit from their quarrels.

I LOOKED upon my inclination for the marquis, as a kind of treachery to mr. Bampton, and thought it, in a manner, a piece of juſtice to give up my pretenſions, as he had ſo freely yielded up his to lady Goodiſon. In ſhort, my heart was divided between the two, but a viſit that I received from the marquis the next morning, quickly determined the affair in his favour. The marquis, at this viſit, made me a declaration of his paſſion highly ſuitable to his diſpoſition and character, I mean with the utmoſt reſpect, but with an earneſtneſs, at the ſame time, which demanded eagerly an anſwer; and this was ſo engaging, that I could no longer conceal from him the ſentiments of my heart. I conſidered only at that time the greatneſs of his love, and thought, therefore, my tenderneſs

tenderneſs was an equal return; we gave ourſelves up to that innocent joy which attends the diſcovery of mutual affection.

I THOUGHT it, however, a piece of juſtice to inform him, before matters went any farther, that I was not at all related to lady Goodiſon; I muſt own that I was apprehenſive of the conſequences of ſuch a confeſſion, namely, that he would be aſhamed of having beſtowed his affection on a girl of ſuch ſeemingly mean parentage: however, I determined at all events, to tell him the truth, more eſpecially as he could not fail of knowing it himſelf in a very ſhort time.

I COMFORTED myſelf upon the whole, with this conſideration, that ſuppoſing he ſhould ceaſe to be my lover, he would nevertheleſs continue to be my friend; and this, as it

was in itſelf a very agreeable circumſtance, ſo likewiſe was it the only one that could make up the other loſs. Indeed, love itſelf, the nobleſt of all paſſions, unleſs it has friendſhip for its baſis, degenerates into a wild diſorderly luſt, which continues only ſo long as the preſent humour remains, and generally terminates in the contempt of the object formerly beloved.

BESIDES, if he ſtill continued my humble admirer, notwithſtanding my confeſſion, this would be a ſure ſign that I had fixed him for ever. I accordingly, therefore owned, not only the nature of the connexion between lady Goodiſon and myſelf, but likewiſe mr. Bampton's paſſion, and the conſequences which it had produced, with reſpect to my benefactreſs.

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THIS open piece of behaviour was ſo far from being of any diſſervice, that it contributed to the raiſing me in the marquis's eſteem. He told me that his happineſs depended entirely on the return of my affection, that had I been in a more exalted ſphere of life there would have been greater room to doubt of his ſinceri ty, inaſmuch as he might have been attracted by the ſplendor of my ſituation, whereas now he had an opportunity of ſhewing me in how contemptible a light he held all thoſe appendages of greatneſs which the fooliſh world ſo doatingly admires, that my preſent behaviour was a ſtrong argument in my behalf, and at once excited both his admiration and eſteem. He made me promiſe him to avoid, as much as poſſible, coming into any meaſures that lady Goodiſon ſhould propoſe, till he could bring about matters, ſo as to anſwer his deſigns.

I was entirely in the dark, about what my benefactreſs intended to do for me, or what perſon ſhe had in view for my huſband. I could not help thinking in my own mind, that were I but able to perſuade her that I had given over all thoughts of mr. Bampton, I ſhould ſoon get her conſent to favour the marquis's pretenſions; but in this opinion I found to my coſt I was conſiderably miſtaken; it did not, however, make much impreſſion on me at that time. Lady Goodiſon's averſion being abundantly compenſated by the daily marks I received of the marquis's eſteem. Love is a moſt admirable reſource, even in the moſt torturing afflictions, let them be ever ſo foreign to itſelf; but on the other hand, nothing can equal the ſeverity of the pains which it inflicts on the unhappy.

THE marquis grew more enamoured every day of his life, I have already informed the reader, that he had prepoſſeſſed lady Goodiſon ſo much in his favour, that ſhe was continually reproaching him if he ever miſſed a day without coming to ſee her; in the mean time I enjoyed al the advantage, ariſing from his continual viſits. Had ſhe not been prepoſſeſſed with the notion of my being very deeply in love with mr. Bampton, we could not have eſcap'd her notice for ſo conſiderable a time. Indeed, I myſelf was greatly alarmed to ſee her eſpouſe the marquis ſo earneſtly, apprehending, and that too not without ſome reaſon, that I ſhould have her for a rival; but in this point I was happily miſtaken. The marquis was a man of infinite vivacity, and as ſuch was agreeable, but it went no farther.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

A reconciliation effected. A lord, a lady, and a lover introduced.

I FOUND my benefactreſs, at laſt, growing more and more compoſed; ſhe could bear even to talk of my ſettlement without much anxiety; and, indeed, I may add, with a tone of great affability. I conſtantly made anſwer, that I was as yet very young, and that it was time enough to think of that ſome years hence; that if ſhe conſulted my inclinations, they prompted me to live continually with her, but that, however, I ſubmitted to her better judgment in every thing of this kind. She looked at me for ſome time with a good deal of attention; at laſt, Emily ſaid ſhe, are you ſincere in what you ſay? yes, indeed, madam, replied I, I am unaccuſtomed to deceive. Upon

on this, ſhe laid before me the ſeveral ſteps ſhe had taken, in order to the ſettling me, adding, however, by the way, that ſhe could eaſily retract, if I diſliked the propoſal, for that ſhe was determined not to force my inclinations, unleſs ſhe diſcovered that I wanted to deceive her.

I WAS quite tranſported to find that my affairs began to take ſo happy a turn, and did not doubt that the end would be anſwerable to ſo favourable a beginning. But alas! this happineſs was as it were but a ſhadow of bliſs, which removed itſelf in proportion to my attempts to embrace it. The day after this converſation ſome people came to ſpeak to lady Goodiſon about particular buſineſs. She ſhut herſelf into her cloſet, but forgot to give orders to let no one in. I had ſat by myſelf in the parlour for ſome time, when who ſhould come in but mr. Bampton. I felt

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the ſame kind of emotion at this ſecond interview, that I had at the firſt. Having previouſly ſeen that the coaſt was quite clear, he threw himſelf at my feet. What are you doing, Sir? ſaid I, you are going to ruin me by this action; how dreadful would be the conſequences, if lady Goodiſon ſurprized you in ſuch a poſture as this! Is this all, ſaid he, you can ſay, after ſo tedious a ſeparation? my heart has been in continual anxiety ever ſince you went away. But perhaps new conqueſts have entirely made you forget former promiſes. He ſtopped for ſome time, in order to diſcover what impreſſion his diſcourſe had made upon me. During the time of his ſpeaking I had kept my eyes quite fixed on the ground, but on finding him ſilent, I could not forbear looking at him; I ſaw him ſo diſordered that it melted me into tears. My angel, ſaid he, do you weep?

weep? and are thoſe tears the reſult of the remains of your once ſincere affection?---what then do you apprehend?---are you afraid of making me too happy?---why will you not ſpeak?---will you not vouchſafe me one word?---Alas! I am utterly ruined, I am convinced you hate me, pronounce then my doom, and I will ſubmit with patience. I remained ſtill quite ſilent, indeed I was at a loſs what to ſay. I ſaw before me a man whom I could not well hate, nay, farther, whom I loved, but not in ſo violent a degree, as he would have perſuaded me. He took hold of both my hands and preſſed them, my looks I ſuppoſe, he interpreted to his own great advantage, upon that he threw himſelf again at my feet to excite my compaſſion. In this unlucky moment, lady Goodiſon opened the door. The ſurprize I was in was ſo great, that I could not help ſcreaming out. This was

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interpreted by my benefactreſs conſiderably to my diſadvantage. I perceived, notwithſtanding my anxiety, that this incident would awaken her indignation, and rouze her ſuſpicions. Mr. Bampton, as you may imagine, was a good deal embarraſſed; as for me, I gave myſelf up to a concern that was very juſtly founded. At length I broke ſilence, and taking hold of my benefactreſs, beſought her very earneſtly that ſhe would convey me back to my godmother's. I ſolemnly proteſted that I was not in love with mr. Bampton, but owned at the ſame time that it was impoſſible for me to hate him. Theſe I over and over avowed to be my ſentiments, declaring that my tears proceeded only from my concern at ſeeing him in ſuch emotion, and from the apprehenſions I was under that he would run into deſpair.

MR. Bampton ſeemed quite ſhocked at what I had been ſaying, being but too well convinced of its truth, by the earneſtneſs with which I had ſpoke it. Lady Goodiſon then ſaid in a very ironical tone, mixed with a good deal of paſſion; you have a pretty good opinion miſs I find of your conquering charms; no no, pray do not deceive yourſelf, you need not fear any one's running into deſpair, merely on your account, and then turning herſelf towards mr. Bampton, I have had full enough of your company ſir. He accordingly went out; lady Goodiſon relying entirely on what ſhe had ſeen, and giving no manner of weight to the ſeveral proteſtations I had made, treated me with the utmoſt contempt, and relapſed into all that bitterneſs which I was in hopes I had been for ever deliverd from.

I NOW began to find that I had no longer any hopes, and was amazed to think that I could bear up under ſuch a burden. I was ſometimes ſtrongly tempted to go to lady Goodiſon, and make her a full confeſſion of the ſituation of my heart, but then again, I was apprehenſive that this would furniſh her with an opportunity of mortifying me afreſh, and conſequently would haſten, inſtead of prolonging, my miſery.

THE day after this confeſſion, the marquis of D——— came to pay a viſit to lady Goodiſon. He was greatly chagrined at the uneaſineſs with which he perceived I was oppreſſed; lady Goodiſon in order to apologize for the diſtraction and confuſion of her looks, complained of a great head-ach; ſhe added that ſhe found plainly that the town air diſagreed

diſagreed with her, and that ſhe was afraid ſhe ſhould be obliged to live wholly in the country.

THE marquis ſoon perceived by what ſhe had been ſaying, that ſomething extraordinary had happened in the family; he told her that thoſe whom ſhe left behind would be much concerned at her departure, and that he ſhould reckon himſelf among that number. Lady Goodiſon returned his compliment in a very genteel manner, without however giving him an invitation to come and ſee her. I perceived that he was diſappointed, and indeed he was in the right to think that his company was agreeable to one who had been perpetually teazing him to viſit her. He was not however diſcouraged in the leaſt by this miſcarriage, but laid ſeveral traps which were all ineffectual. He grew affronted at laſt. I am very apt to think

think that lady Goodiſon did not underſtand him, which may be very well accounted for, conſidering the confuſion ſhe was in. He took his leave therefore immediately, contriving at the ſame time to give me a ſignal to write to him an account of what was the matter.

ALTHOUGH I was very ſenſible of the great expediency of this requeſt, yet the great difficulty lay in my being able to ſatisfy it, eſpecially at a time when every thing I did was ſo minutely enquired into. About ſeven o'clock in the evening, my benefactreſs received a letter, which ſhe opened and read. While ſhe was peruſing the contents, the tears trickled down her cheeks in great abundance. I was very deſirous of knowing whom this letter could come from, and of examining the ſubject of it. I concluded immediately that it muſt relate to me. I got up from my

my chair, and croſſing the room, looked hard at the hand-writing, which I ſoon diſcovered to be mr. Bampton's. This diſcovery you may imagine, encreaſed my uneaſineſs prodigiouſly; I longed to ſee the contents, but could think of no expedient that was likely to be attended with ſucceſs. My curioſity however, at laſt got the better of my apprehenſions of danger, I determined to lay hold of the letter as ſoon as lady Goodiſon went to bed. I laid in her apartment, ſo that provided ſhe went to ſleep, I was pretty ſure of getting it into my poſſeſſion. As ſoon as I thought ſhe was pretty faſt, I went up to her bed's head, and found her pocket-book open, and among ſeveral other papers, the very letter I was looking for, and on rummaging her eſcrutore, that ſtood juſt by the bed, I took out pen, ink and paper, and got into bed. Having provided myſelf with a little piece

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of wax candle, I went and lighted it at the lamp which was always burning in her room, and having read it by that light, I took a copy of it immediately. Its contents were as follow:

"MAY I hope, madam, to find you diſpoſed to receive an excuſe from one who has offended you indeed, but very unwillingly. I will give you an account of the whole affair, by which means at leaſt, this one end will be obtained, I mean the juſtifying the innocent. You may perhaps doubt of my ſincerity, when I ſolemnly proteſt to you, that ſhe is now, and has always been worthy of your tendereſt regard. I am the only guilty perſon, and am therefore alone worthy to feel the effects of your reſentment.

As ſoon as I beheld the lovely Emily, I muſt own, that from that inſtant

inſtant I became deeply enamoured of her. Had ſhe, perhaps, been as complying as I would fain have had her, I might have been diſguſted very ſoon, and have conſequently made her unhappy. You have too much generoſity not to rejoice that that has not been the caſe. This poor child is by no means deſerving of your anger: I know I am unworthy of your pardon, and therefore I do not preſume to requeſt it, and yet there is nothing that I would not do to procure it. I would fain, if I could, make ſome amends for the uneaſineſs which I have been the occaſion of to Emily, but this recompence depends entirely, madam, on your furthering my deſigns. You know that my fortune is at my own diſpoſal; I am ſure ſhe will obey you without the leaſt reluctance. An intimate friend of mine, has requeſted it as a favour, that I would endeavour to get ſome place for a young gentleman

man of his acquaintance: Emily's happineſs depends upon you, and my contributing to it will give me the greateſt ſatisfaction."

I WAS hardly ever ſo aſtoniſhed as upon the peruſal of this letter. It is impoſſible, ſaid I to myſelf, that a man whom I have all along conſidered in the light of a friend, ſhould be willing to purchaſe his happineſs at the expence of mine: at the very time that he thinks he is obliging me, he is in reality doing me the moſt flagrant injury. After having for a while bewailed my unhappy fate, I ſat about immediately taking a copy of the letter, and writing another to the marquis, to give him an account of the whole affair. I made as much haſte as I could, leaving the time of reflection to ſome other day, when I ſhould be more at leiſure. As ſoon as I had done, I replaced the letter and got into bed: notwithſtanding

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the great emotion of my mind, I ſlept very quietly, and had taken ſuch good care of my papers over night, that there was not in the morning any ſingle circumſtance that could betray me.

I SPENT a whole week in the utmoſt impatience, waiting for the marquis; he had never omitted coming for ſuch a length of time before, ſo that I was at a loſs to what cauſe to attribute ſo unuſual an abſence; however at laſt he came. It is impoſſible for me to expreſs the ſatisfaction I felt on his return; he had been all this while in the country, ſorely againſt his inclinations; I put my papers into his hand, on which he went out immediately, with an intention, I imagine, to ſatisfy his curioſity. My benefactreſs behaved towards me in a very extraordinary manner, I had no watch ſet over me, nor was any mention made of

what had happened in the leaſt. Lady Goodiſon uſed to entertain people frequently in her cloſet; in ſhort I was wholly at a loſs to gueſs what would be the reſult of all thoſe private conferences; I was a good deal chagrined that I had not kept Lettice in my intereſt, who could have let me into the whole, but did not know well how to gain her over to me again.

My benefactreſs got up one morning very early, and went out immediately, ſhe did not leave any orders with Lettice for me, but committed me to my own diſcretion in her apartment. I reſolved to lay hold of this opportunity to get out of Lettice as much as I could, and in this I was ſo lucky, that ſhe broke the matter to me firſt, without having any previous trouble. As ſoon as we were alone, I ſhould be glad madam, ſaid ſhe, to know what I have

have done to draw upon myſelf your averſion? is it the counterpart of the inconſtancy which you have ſhewn to mr. Bampton? I ought not to be much ſurprized at it, continued ſhe, it is the uſual lot of confidants to be intirely diſcarded when they are no longer uſeful, however I think I ought to have met with a much milder treatment, more eſpecially as you were in ſuch a ſituation as to ſtand in need of me again, and though perhaps after all, I could not have been of any extraordinary ſervice to you, yet I might at leaſt have ſatisfied your curioſity, which I think verily muſt have been raiſed by the extraordinary ſteps which lady Goodiſon has taken.

ALAS, replied I, you know but very little of the real ſituation of my heart; I have never forgot, nor ſhall I ever, the faithful zeal you have

ſhewn in my ſervice, but, though I left off making uſe of you, it was not that I diſcarded you, but that it was out of my power to do it any longer. Mr. Bampton and I could never agree; I muſt own I was afraid you would blame my behaviour, as I knew you was greatly intereſted in his behalf, and it was upon that account chiefly, that I did not much requeſt your aſſiſtance; as to lady Goodiſon, I dare ſay that by this time ſhe is fully convinced of the unjuſtneſs of her behaviour. I have done at leaſt all that lay in my power to approve myſelf innocent: if this is all you know ſaid Lettice, what I am now going to tell will inform you more clearly in the affair; my miſtreſs is ſo thoroughly convinced of her injuſtice, and ſo affected on account of having made you unhappy, that ſhe is doing every thing that ſhe can to make you amends; in ſhort ſhe is going

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to marry you. I have ſeen the man ſeveral times whom ſhe deſigns for your huſband, he ſeems an exceeding good ſort of man. The only thing that is wanting to compleat the whole affair is the procuring him a place. And this I am told lady Goodiſon has actually gotten by her intereſt. She is gone out this morning to thank the people who gave it him. I do not doubt but when ſhe returns ſhe will inform you of what ſhe has been doing.

I COULD no longer reſtrain my concern within bounds, notwithſtanding I had been in a manner prepared for this event by the letter which I had ſeen. What then, ſaid I, has lady Goodiſon reſolved to devote me to perpetual deſtruction? Her friendſhip and her hatred are equally indifferent to me ſince whichſoever of them bears the greater ſway I am ſure to be miſerable. For God's

ſake ſaid Lettice do not make yourſelf ſo uneaſy, you are of opinion in purſuance of what idle romances have told you, that no marriage can be happy that is not preceded by love. This indeed is a prejudice which is very allowable on account of your youth. But you are greatly miſtaken; Had you been torn away indeed from a man you was violently in love with, and forced to marry a man to whom you had a mortal averſion, you would have reaſon to complain; but you are free from all engagements, and the perſon propoſed to you is a very proper one, to awaken the ſeeds of tenderneſs which are implanted in your breaſt, you will be convinced ſome time or other, of the truth of what I have been ſaying, altho' you are not perſuaded at preſent.

My tears had not ceaſed flowing all the time ſhe had been ſpeaking,

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ſo far had ſhe been from comforting me in the leaſt, that ſhe only contributed to the making my deſpair the greater. It is true indeed, that ſhe had talked very ſenſibly, but then it was upon ſuppoſition that my heart was not pre-engaged; nay ſhe ſeemed diſpoſed to pity a perſon, exactly in my circumſtances, tho' ſhe did not know it. This gave me great encouragement to truſt her with the ſecret of my paſſion, and yet I could not perſuade myſelf to truſt her. I was in hopes that time would furniſh me with ſome methods, to render all oppoſition to the marquis's pretenſions ineffectual.

CHAP. V.

CHAP. V.

Amazing diſcoveries; productive of no diſagreeable conſequence to a fatigued author, called concluſion.

AS ſoon as lady Goodiſon came home, ſhe found herſelf a little out of order; ſhe went to bed immediately, imagining that her indiſpoſition proceeded from want of reſt, but her diſorder increaſed a good deal, and became, at laſt, a very dangerous diſtemper. Mr. Bampton uſed to come to ſee her very often, and always met with a very gracious reception. I ſoon perceived that I had been made the ſacrifice to cement their friendſhip the more ſtrongly, and that as ſoon as ever my benefactreſs recovered, my miſery would be compleated.

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THE marquis quite deſpaired, which was a freſh cauſe of much uneaſineſs to me. One morning, when lady Goodiſon was a little better than ſhe had been, ſhe ſent for me into her apartment. I found her with mr. Bampton and a young gentleman, whoſe affected complaiſance and aſſiduity made me ſuſpect that he was the perſon ſhe intended for my huſband. He ſeemed a pretty kind of man, and this muſt have been really the caſe, conſidering I agreed to it, who was ſo prejudiced againſt him. Perhaps, had I not been engaged, I might have brought myſelf to like him; but he offered himſelf at a time, and in circumſtances which rendered him exceeding diſagreeable. The more reaſon I had to like him, the more ſtrongly I found I hated him; during this conflict I felt ſeveral emotions which it is difficult

to deſcribe, but a mixture of which appeared plainly in my countenance, had it been taken notice of. Alas, I was now bordering on that time which was to compleat my misfortunes.

AFTER having talked for about a quarter of an hour on indifferent ſubjects, lady Goodiſon ſaid to me, it is high time you ſhould be looking out for ſome ſettlement; out of the friendſhip I bear you, I have taken this trouble upon me. Had I dyed in this illneſs, I tremble to think of the ſituation in which I ſhould have left you; I am willing therefore to put you beyond all accidents of that kind, and have therefore made choice of mr. Whitaker for your huſband, (pointing to the young man above-mentioned.) You ſee, continued ſhe, by the choice I have made, that I have in ſome meaſure inſured your hap-

happineſs. He is an exceeding good kind of man, and will, I doubt not very ſoon gain your affections. You are extremely obliged to mr. Bampton for the great trouble he has taken in bringing about this affair.

THE only reply I made was by a very deep ſigh. I was ſo thoroughly chagrined, that I ſhould have probably broke out, had not mr. Bampton's being there prevented me. At laſt, mr. Whitaker took his leave, he had no great reaſon to be ſatisfied with the reception I had given him, but his youth and inexperience attributed that to my modeſty, which was in reality owing to my averſion. As ſoon as he was gone out, mr. Bampton ſaid to me, before lady Goodiſon, I hope the proof I have given you of my friendſhip are acceptable, I know your attachment to lady Goodiſon, and am not at all ſur-

ſurprized that you ſhould be ſorry at parting with her, on the contrary, I am glad, becauſe it betokens gratitude, but be not afraid, you will always find in her a faithful friend, whenever you ſtand in need. My benefactreſs confirmed what he had been ſaying.

THIS piece of behaviour amazed me ſo exceedingly, that I had not power to utter a ſingle ſyllable. I could not well conceive how a young man who had ſo lately appeared in the character of a paſſionate lover, could all at once give up his pretenſions, which, had he been ſincere, he ſhould ſtill have continued, or at leaſt not have reſigned them with ſo much indifference. Notwithſtanding the firm reſolution I had taken never to give my conſent to the match now propoſed, and the neceſſity there was of my declaring my intention,

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to prevent their proceeding any farther, I was unable to make any reply, the tears came into my eyes, but they were not taken any notice of. Mr. Bampton dined with us, as ſoon as dinner was over, he deſired leave to write a note to a perſon to whoſe houſe he was going, but whom he was afraid he ſhould not meet. As ſoon as he had wrote his letter, he came and joined us again. My benefactreſs was very buſy at work, which prevented her from obſerving his putting the letter into my hands. You may eaſily imagine that I was very much ſurprized at what he had been doing; I took the firſt opportunity to go out and read it, and found the contents of it to be as follows:

I AM wholly ignorant, my dear Emily, of the ſituation of your heart. I had ſome reaſon to think that I had

had formerly a place in your eſteem. I have done every thing I could to reconcile myſelf with the old lady, in order to make you amends. I have found out a good ſettlement for you. Thus while I am endeavouring to pleaſe you, I loſe entirely the fruit of my own labours; my love and my friendſhip are equally unſucceſsful. Tell me then by what means I can poſſibly make you happy? It is in my power to retract every thing I have done, but favour me with ſome reaſon for my ſo doing. However diſagreeable ſuch a confidence might be, even were I wounded as a lover, as a friend I could compaſſionate, the former of which characters ſhall always be given up, when the latter can be of ſervice. The tender friendſhip which I entertained for mr. Bampton, made me ſenſible of the proof he gave me of his eſteem. I determined therefore to entruſt

truſt all my ſecrets to ſo ſincere a friend; it was not in my power to do this immediately, but I deſigned to communicate them in a letter, which I reſolved to give him the next time he ſhould come.

BUT alas, it had been agreed upon that very day that lady Goodiſon ſhould ſet out the day after the morrow for her country houſe, where I was to be married, and mr. Bampton did not come between this and then. On the eve of this unhappy day, the marquis of D———, who knew nothing of what had happened, came to ſee lady Gondiſon; he ſoon took notice of the melancholy that oppreſſed my benefactreſs, who was preparing for her journey the next day, was a good deal out of the room. The marquis took the opportunity of our being alone to aſk me what misfortune

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he had to fear; alas ſir, ſaid I, my fate is determined, I ſhall be thoroughly unhappy during the remainder of my life. Lady Goodiſon ſets out to morrow, and drags me with her into the country, where ſhe is going to marry me to mr. Whitaker. Death, alas, is my only reſource. Is this all the oppoſition you have made, replied the marquis, and are tears the only weapons you have employed; is it thus that you love me? if I was really dear to you, you would not, could not, give yourſelf up ſo tamely. What would you have me do? ſaid I, your own heart will dictate, replied he; conſider that unleſs you ward off this blow, your compliance will infallibly plunge me into deſpair; I gave him mr. Bampton's letter; he aſked me when he had read it, if I had told him my reaſons, to which I replied, that I had wrote

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him a letter with an account of the whole affair, but that I had not ſeen him ſince; as to you, ſir, ſaid I to the marquis, uſe your utmoſt endeavours to get lady Goodiſon's conſent to accompany us into the country.

AFTER a good deal of difficulty he at length obtained it, the only objection was, that there was no room for him in the coach, but on the marquis's ſaying that he would follow us in his poſt-chaiſe, every thing was agreed on. This gave me much comfort; the marquis ſhewed a great deal of ſatisfaction in his countenance; with what eagerneſs alas, did he preſs forward to his own deſtruction. At length the time of our departure came, we had been waiting ſome time for mr. Bampton, when he ſent a meſſage to inform us, that ſome very neceſſary

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ceſſary buſineſs would detain him in town for two or three days, but that he would come down to us as ſoon as poſſibly he could. The marquis accordingly took his place in the coach, and ſent back his own poſt-chaiſe; when he gave thoſe orders, I obſerved him go up very near the poſtilion, and writting ſomething with a pencil, he then put it into his hands.

But the ſatisfaction I now felt was conſiderably allayed with dreadful apprehenſions; I was ſenſible I ſtood in need of mr. Bampton's aſſiſtance, and the nigher the danger the more I found I wanted him. He was the perſon on whom I had placed my great dependance to extricate me from this affair. The marquis had not weight enough with lady Goodiſon to be of any great uſe, beſides, his eagerneſs would have betrayed

trayed him. We were both of us a good deal out of ſpirits during the journey. The continual efforts he was making to get the better of his uneaſineſs, did not eſcape my obſervation. Mr. Whitaker, notwithſtanding his continual aſſiduity, could not help perceiving that it was all thrown away; and, indeed, the more complacent he grew, the more diſagreeable he appeared, inſomuch, that I was ready to affront him every inſtant.

I PERCEIVED that the marquis had got ſomething to ſay to me, when a ſudden jolt of the coach favoured his deſign; he embraced the opportunity, and ſlipped a paper into my hand, which I had no time to read till after our arrival. As ſoon as I got by myſelf, I pulled out the paper, which informed me that the marquis, in caſe of extremity, had given

given orders to his poſtilion to keep his chaiſe ready about a quarter of a mile off, and to lay concealed there till he received freſh orders; that he had only taken this precaution, becauſe mr. Pampton could be of no further ſervice to us; that he could wiſh I would concur with him in my endeavours to free myſelf from lady Goodiſon's tyranny; that by following him, I ſhould follow one who adored me to diſtraction, and whoſe life depended abſolutely on my determination.

THE indifference with which I had behaved to mr. Whitaker on the road, had made him complain to my benefactreſs of his reception. Soon after our arrival, ſhe took me into her cloſet and chid me, deſiring me to ſhew civility to one who ſo well deſerved it, adding by the way, that if I refuſed this offer, there was nothing

thing left for me, but to go into the country. In anſwer to this, I told her, that if ſhe would be ſo good as to leave me to my choice, I ſhould prefer retirement, however diſagreeable it might be, to the living with a man whom it was impoſſible for me to love, and whom I ſhould torment as well as myſelf; that the goodneſs ſhe had ſhewn towards me hitherto, gave me room to hope that ſhe would not force my inclination, and upon this I fell down at her feet. You argue well, miſs, ſaid ſhe, but I ſhall nener be governed by your humours and upon this ſhe went out.

I STAID for ſome time in the place, quite chagrined at the ill ſucceſs I had met with, where I expected to have found a quite different reception. The day was now coming on apace which was to compleat my unhappineſs, and mr Bampton's

ton's return was the only thing that was wanting. We waited for him eight whole days. I expected his arrival with a mixture of fear and deſire. I had told the marquis I would follow him whenever he thought proper, but new difficulties ſtarted which made that ſcheme as difficult in practice, as it ſeemed eaſy in theory. I was juſt at this time in a ſituation of the utmoſt perplexity. I could not gain my freedom without undergoing the cenſure of the world, and how could I tell but this very ſtep would be a means to loſe my lover, although it had been the effect of his advice. Love and reaſon maintained for ſome time a great ſtruggle within me; at laſt, however, reaſon got the better, notwithſtanding the nearneſs of one whom I loved tenderly. It was neceſſary however to conceal this reſolution from him, otherwiſe I ſhould have been expoſed to his repeated

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ſollicitations, to which in ſpite of my reſolutions, I was in danger of yielding. I let him think therefore that I was ready to follow him wherever he pleaſed, and contented myſelf with avoiding him, which he conſidered as the effect of my diſcretion, in order to deceive my benefactreſs.

LADY Goodiſon, who was quite out of patience in waiting for mr. Bampton, determined to conclude the marriage without him; ſhe ſent therefore for my godfather and godmother, and told them what ſhe was about. The good old people ſeeemed quite tranſported with joy, whereas had they been acquainted with the real ſituation of my heart, they would ſurely have compaſſionated the greatneſs of my misfortunes. The nearer the time came the weaker I found my reaſon, and love began

gan to reaſſume its wonted influence. My complacency plunged me into greater troubles than it was hardly poſſible to have imagined. But alas! ſo it was ordained, it was not in my power to remain innocent. I am now approaching to the fatal cataſtrophe of my ſtory, which even at this diſtance of time, I can never think of without ſhuddering.

At laſt the preparations were made for my wedding. I felt continual tremors all over my body; my ſpirits grew languid; I was continually crying; and by degrees was reduced to a total deſpair. The marquis ſoon perceived the trouble I was in; he doubted my being able to make any oppoſition. He found an opportunity to ſpeak with me on the eve of that unhappy day, and told me, that there was now no time to be loſt; that I could no longer depend

depend on mr. Bampton, and ſhould only conſult the dictates of my affection; that in ſhort our happineſs was entirely in our own power; that he had given orders to his poſtilion to be ready with the chaiſe at midnight, and that he only waited for my determination. I anſwered him in a very faint tone of voice, that death was the only reſource I had; however, he at laſt prevailed on me to give my conſent, and then left me. I appeared at ſupper ſo exceedingly out of humour, that mr. Whitaker might eaſily have conjectured how diſagreeable he was, but his perſiſting was in a great meaſure owing to his want of experience. Before I went to bed, I was obliged to undergo a ſevere lecture from my benefactreſs.

I LAID myſelf in a very ſmall apartment. The marquis's room was over lady Goodiſon's and ſeperated from mine by the main body of the houſe. There was however a pair of back ſtairs which led down to the other part of the building. About two hours after every one had been in bed. I had thrown myſelf into a great chair and was reflecting on the conſequences of what I was going to do, or rather having quite worn out my reflections, I was thinking of nothing at all; when I was rouz'd from this lethargy by a noiſe at my door, which made me ſcream out before I was aware, but however I was at too great a diſtance from the reſt of the family to be heard. On opening the door the marquis came in with a piſtol in his

his hand. My dear Emily, ſaid he, no time is to be loſt, do not force me to revenge your cruelty on myſelf; there is not the leaſt danger, the whole family are aſleep; do you chuſe to kill the man you love, by marrying one you hate? or will you by your conſent enſure the happineſs of us both? This alternative, however, did not compoſe me in the leaſt, for I fainted away. The marquis took me in his arms and carried me to his chaiſe; the violence of the motion ſoon brought me to myſelf, and then I felt a great degree of ſatisfaction in being with the perſon whom I loved ſo ſincerely. This ſatisfaction, however, was allayed by the apprehenſion of being purſued; which was diſſipated in proportion to the diſtance from lady Goodiſon's.

We were miſſed at my benefactreſs's very early in the morning. People were ſent on every ſide after us, and mr. Whitaker himſelf headed a party of men on the very road we were going; they would never have overtaken us, had it not been for an ugly accident, one of our horſes in going along, fell down and cut his leg, ſo that we were obliged to go ſlowly till we came to the next ſtage. We began to be apprehenſive, and looked out every now and then to ſee whether we were purſued.

The marquis drew out his caſe knife that he might be ready in caſe of a ſudden attack. At laſt we perceived ſeveral horſemen at a diſtance. We deſired the poſtilion to make what haſte he could, but

but that ſignified little. The marquis would fain have got out, but I would not ſuffer him. A chaiſe that was coming towards us, gave us ſome little hopes; we imagined it would join us time enough to give its aſſiſtance. In the mean time however, we were ſurrounded on all ſides. I ſoon diſcovered mr. Whitaker, who was the foremoſt of all; he threatened to ſhoot the poſtilion if he did not ſtop immediately: he accordingly drew out a piſtol and fired, as the chaiſe was going on, the ball came in and hit the marquis. The poſtilion quite frightened, got off and ran away. The murderer came up to the chaiſe; tranſported with fury, I took the marquis's caſe knife, and plunged it in Whitaker's breaſt. He dropped down juſt as the chaiſe that was coming towards us met us. A gen-

tleman came out of it whom at firſt in the diſorder I was in I did not recollect. He cried out unhappy woman what is this you have been doing? You have murdered my ſon. Theſe words brought me a little to myſelf upon which I ſoon found that it was mr. Bampton who had been ſpeaking to me, yet I could not conceive how mr. Whitaker could be his ſon; juſt at this inſtant I happened to look on the expiring marquis, and this plunged me again into my former ſituation. When I came to myſelf I found I was laying on a bed ſurrounded by a number of ſervants, in the mean time my godfather and godmother who had been informed of what had happened, came into the room and told me that lady Goodiſon was dying.

As ſoon as I heard this, I gave a moſt violent ſcream, and repeated the marquis's name with a good deal of emphaſis. They aſſured me that it was impoſſible to do him any ſervice. Notwithſtanding the number of ſervants who were continually holding me, it was with much difficulty that they prevented me from laying violent hands on myſelf. I need not ſurely deſcribe the ſituation I was in, the bare mention of the ſeveral misfortunes I had been in, is ſufficient to give the reader a very juſt idea. Juſt about this time lady Goodiſon deſired to ſee me, accordingly I was carried to her attended by my godfather and godmother. My benefactreſs was in as deplorable a ſituation as I was. As ſoon as ever ſhe ſaw me, alas! my dear Emily, I ſhould be happy if my life

life had been the only forfeiture paid. Mr Bampton likewiſe cried out. Heavens was it to ſee my own ſon aſſaſſinated, that my life has been as yet ſo miſerably protracted? my godmother who had hitherto been utterly unable to ſpeak, ſeemed quite ſtruck at the ſound of mr. Bampton's voice, and juſt lifting up her eyes, gave a ſcream and fainted away.

THIS extraordinary event gave a little relief to our concern, as ſoon as ſhe came to herſelf, and mr. Bampton had looked on her for ſome time, good God, ſaid he, am I really awake, or is it a dream that I behold. My godmother fell down at his feet, forgive dear ſir, ſaid ſhe a misfortune which has happened thro' the malice of fortune. Alas, is then my faithfulneſs in keeping a ſecret, become a crime,

crime, and has it now occaſioned the commiſſion of an other. How comes it that I never met you before at lady Goodiſon's, for had that ever happened, theſe misfortunes would have been prevented. The unfortunate Emily has been only an inſtrument in the hand of heaven towards the bringing them on. Go child, ſaid ſhe, (directing her diſcourſe to me) go aſk your father bleſſing; then turning to mr. Bampton, yes ſir, here is Emily, your only daughter, if poſſible, ſtill more miſerable than when I firſt took her from the arms of her dying mother.

Mr. Bampton on hearing this awoke from the reverie in which he had hitherto been plunged and looked ſtedfaſtly for ſome time on me, my godmother and lady Goodiſon. Theſe ſeveral diſcoveries

coveries had followed each other ſo cloſe that he was in a manner bewildered. He was ſome time before he was able to utter a ſyllable, but continued ſilent a good while in a very muſing poſture. At length addreſſing himſelf to my godmother, why do you not at the ſame time, ſaid he, reſtore the mother, whom I committed to your care, I ſhould then be able to bear my ſon's death with more compoſure. At length, however, nature worked ſtrongly upon him; he got up from his ſeat and throwing his arms about my neck, alas, was the condition of finding you, ſo terrible as this. O dear, yet cruel Emily, I cannot long ſurvive thee.

LADY Goodiſon had hitherto been totally ſilent but at length ſhe deſired to have theſe ſeveral matters

matters cleared up to her. My god-mother began the ſtory with an account of every thing that had preceded mr. Bampton's now lord T——'s marriage with miſs Ferguſon, to the time in which my father was obliged to fly his country. My father then continued it, beginning from that time; he told us, he had wrote to his wife to deſire her to come to him, but had never had any anſwer; that after a good deal of enquiry, he found that ſhe was dead; that he fell very dangerouſly ill himſelf, of which diſeaſe he did not recover for ſome time; that he had deſired leave to come into England to look after his children, but could obtain that favour only on condition of changing his name; that on his arrival he had omitted no opportunity of enquiring after his family, but that all his endeavours had

had been ineffectual, and therefore he had in ſome meaſure given over the purſuit; that life being then a burden to him, he had determined to dedicate the remainder of it to the ſervice of his country; that he became acquainted with lady Goodiſon by chance, and as ſoon as he ſaw me, recollected my likeneſs to his wife, and had miſtaken the dictate of his natural affection, for the paſſion of love; that he had not come down to ſettle mr. Whitaker, but on account of ſome ſuſpicions which he had of his relation to him, for that after much difficulty he had got the perſon who had hitherto called himſelf mr. Whitaker's father, to own, that he had been put into his hands by ſome people who had taken care of him in his infancy, and who had received him from

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a lady; that having no children himſelf, he intended to make him his heir, ſince no one laid claim to him. In ſhort, continued mr. Bampton, by theſe ſeveral circumſtances, I diſcovered him to be my ſon, and was coming down to declare him ſuch, thinking I ſhould get hither before the marriage took place, but an unlucky haſte has brought all this upon us.

ALAS, ſaid lady Goodiſon, I am the perſon that am to blame; were I to periſh alone, I ſhould be thoroughly contented, but, alas, I have ruined both Emily and you. I muſt own to you, I expected with impatience the return of your eſteem, to which I conſidered Emily's marriage as a ſure introduction, ſo that under the appearance of generoſity, I made her the ſacrifice of my own

own blinded paſſion. Emily, continued ſhe, and turning towards me, you ought to abhor my memory; my ſincere ſorrow, which will follow me to the grave, is but a very ſlender compenſation for the miſchief I have occaſioned.

By dint of money the affair was huſhed up; lady Goodiſon then ſettled her affairs, and gave half her eſtate to my father, which he accepted only on condition to return it, by will, to her or her heirs. Lady Goodiſon determined to go into the country, where, after much ſollicitation, I determined to accompany her. About ſix months after I had been here, my poor father died, which became a freſh ſubject for my grief. It is now ſix years ſince the cataſtrophe abovementioned happened, which even now ſhocks me, and has embittered

bittered the remainder of my life with remorſe.

As to my dear benefactreſs, her conſtancy and fortitude are my daily wonder. Thus from the moſt bitter misfortunes, ſovereign goods are often ſeen to ariſe. To her miſery it is owing, that ſhe now lives an exemplary pattern of virtue and holineſs, and the utmoſt friendſhip and reſpect have taken place of my former rancour againſt her.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

An affectionate farewel to the reader.

AND now, gentle reader, or or rather fellow traveller thro' this road of human life, pointed out, perhaps, in variety of tempers, but all tending to evince this one ſettled truth, that man is an unaccountable capricious being. Let us imitate the cuſtom of thoſe on a real journey, who ſeldom ſeparate without ſome friendly intercourſe, or at leaſt, without ſome benevolent wiſhes. Have I inſtructed thee? that depends on thyſelf. Have I amuſed thee? I have done my beſt endeavour. Have I whiled away an hour or two that hung heavy on thy hands? thou oweſt me then thy thanks, and remember that if thou

thou art not the better for my leſſons, I am not to be blamed.

I SHALL not enter here into a laboured vindication of the ſeveral perſonages introduced, or endeavour in a ſet diſſertation to lay before you the juſtneſs of the characters, or of the deſcription they are cloathed in. Doſt thou find fault with the perſons themſelves, their tempers and diſpoſitions? lay the blame then upon nature, and be pleaſed to enquire why they were ſo made, for reſt aſſured with thyſelf, that ſuch characters have exiſted, and that they have in reality acted the parts here aſſigned them; doſt thou wonder at their inconſtancy? examine thine own conduct, and thou wilt find, if not the inſignificancy, yet at leaſt the reſtleſneſs; if not the affectation,

yet at leaſt the love of novelty, with which theſe are ſtrongly marked. I have not endeavoured to make up a ſet of figures, in order to give them motion, and create, as it were, a ſyſtem of mine own. The memoirs, on which this is grounded, are genuine, and the perſons, even ſuppoſing I had not been acquainted with them, which was merely the effect of accident, would ſtill have exiſted in nature. Doſt thou conſider the whole as a fiction? be it ſo, yet the fable has its moral, and however I might gratify thy indolence by placing it before thee in two ſhort lines at the end of my chapter; I chuſe rather that the diſcovery ſhould be the effect of thine own induſtry; be aſſured upon the whole, that I meant to amuſe and inſtruct thee, and what I deſire is, in return

turn, a right conſtruction of my endeavours, and a candid REVIEW of the book.

Si quid noviſti rectius iſtis,
Candidus imperti ſi non, his
utere mecum:

FINIS.